



THE HISTORY OF RAYNHAM

Researched and Compiled

By

M. Patrice White

1988



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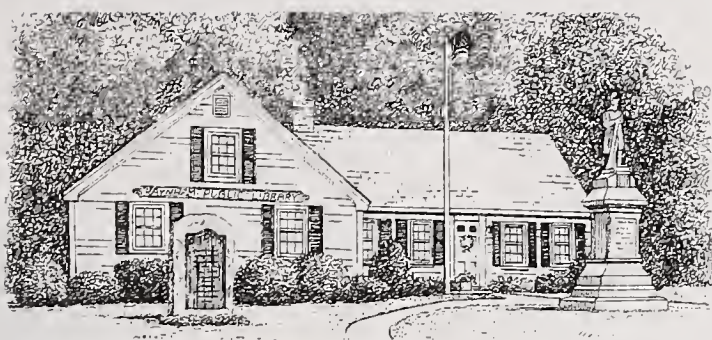
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Date: October 12, 2012



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Drummond Printing Company
Taunton, MA

HISTORY OF RAYNHAM

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I. INTRODUCTION

You are a citizen of the United States of America, a resident of the state of Massachusetts, the county of Bristol, and the town of Raynham. Whether you were born here, or have just joined us recently, this book will help you to know more about the town of Raynham.

Do you know when we became a town? why we're called Raynham? how big we are? how many children go to school here? how many teachers we have? or how many people live here?

Have you ever heard of King Philip, of the Wampanoag Indians, who had a home here? Did you know that during the King Philip War the people in this area were protected from harm? Have you ever seen the special boulder on South Main Street? Do you know what it commemorates? Our veterans are honored in several ways. Do you know where or how?

Do you know how many schools there are in Raynham? how many cemeteries? how many churches? We have some very old houses in our town. Do you know where they are?

Have you heard of the large pond that used to be in Raynham, but has disappeared? Have you heard some of the myths and legends concerning the early days of our town? Does the name Toby Gilmore mean anything to you? His story is an interesting part of our history.

As you begin to learn about Raynham, perhaps some of you will be able to share some additional information with us. Does your home or neighborhood have some particular significance in the story of our town? Do you have an old map, picture, book, or letter that would be of interest? Perhaps you have a good story about a person or place in Raynham that would add to our enjoyment of finding out about the past.

| |
|---|
| <p>RAYNHAM'S HISTORY IS LONG AND BRIGHT; OUR TOWN WAS FORGED BY SETTLERS WITH WISDOM AND MIGHT.</p> |
|---|

II. RAYNHAM - PART OF TAUNTON

The history of Raynham, which was founded in 1731, goes back to the history of Taunton, and before that, to the time when this area belonged to the Indians. This area was occupied by the Wampanoag Indians who were, at one period, one of the most numerous and powerful of the Massachusetts tribes of the Algonquin nation. (1:p.6)

This tract of land was not visited by civilized man until 1621. The wilderness was unbroken, with never a sound of a mill or a woodman's axe. It was the undisputed domain of the wild beasts and savages. (13)

In July of 1621, according to Enoch Sanford in his 1870 writings, Edward Winslow and Stephen Hopkins were sent, by the Governor of Plymouth Colony, to:

1. explore this section of the country
2. visit Massasoit - king of the Wampanoags
3. ascertain the number of Indians, and
4. open trade with the Indians. (9:p.1)

Long before the English arrived in 1620, the region along Taunton River was inhabited by many redmen who called Taunton River Titicut River, derived from the Indian word "tetuk," meaning a bow or bend, with the "ut" signifying the bow or bend was in a river.

They fished, hunted, and planted corn. Shortly before the Pilgrims arrived, the Indians were felled by a disease, and only a few hundred still lived. Many fields were abandoned.

Winslow and Hopkins passed through Middleborough, then an Indian town called Nemasket, and arrived at Titicut, where they stayed one night. Then they went a few miles down the river to a fording place near what is now Robinson's Bridge. Just as they were going to cross the river, they met two old Indians. When the Indians were assured that Winslow and Hopkins were friendly, the Indians received the white men with kindness.

"These were the first Englishmen to set foot on the soil of Raynham, coming up what is now Dean Street and across Hill Street. The Indians helped them...even carried their luggage." (13)

As they passed along the southern border of this town by the river, they discovered many places which had been inhabited by Indians. As the two men walked along, they observed good farm land and good forest land. It even reminded them somewhat of their own country, England.

EDWARD WINSLOW LIKED OUR LOOKS,
AND HE WROTE ABOUT US IN HIS BOOKS.

On their second visit to Taunton, in 1623, Winslow wrote:

"The ground is very good on both sides, it being for the most part cleared. Thousands of men have lived there, which died in a great plague not long since. Upon this river dwelleth Massasyt. ...There is much good timber. ...The country in respect to the lying of it is both chamanie and hilly like many places in England. ...In some places it's very rockie both above ground and in it. And though the country be wilde and ever grown with woods, yet the trees stand not thicke, but a man may ride a horse amongst them." (21)

Friendship was established with Massasoit and the Wampanoags, and the first white men lived peacefully with the Indians. They shared the land, and the Indians understood this. However, as the white men began to settle in the area, they wanted to buy land so that they could own their own parcels. Historians today believe that the Indians did not thoroughly understand the concept of purchase and ownership, and they did not realize that they were losing their land.

One part of land, originally known as Cohanat, in the colony of New Plymouth, was purchased of Massasoit, the Indian Chief, by Elizabeth Pool (sic) and her associates. (2:p.166)

In 1637, John Winthrop wrote:

"This year a plantation was begun at Teticutt, by a gentlewoman, an ancient maid, one Mrs. Pool." (1:p.3)

Elizabeth Pole was 49, unmarried, from Dorchester. She was born in Devon, near the English country town of Taunton. Taunton, in Gaelic, means, "place of quick-running waters." "Cohanat," in the Indian language, means the same thing. When Elizabeth Pole called her settlement

"Taunton," it really was a translation rather than a renaming. (11:p.9)

The Pole settlement - "The Titiquet Purchase" - antedated all others in this vicinity and led to the founding of this town. Their motto became, "Dux femina facti," which means "a woman was the leader of the deed." There is confusion in records about purchasers and payment. Legend says she bought the land for a jackknife and a peck of beans.

There is also confusion about the name "Taunton." Another source states that Taunton is supposed to be pure Gaelic. Taun means "of the river." Tauntown means "a town on the river." Tauntown has been contracted to Taunton. (21)

This same source states that Cohanat's Indian translation means "place of snows or snowdrifts."

To quote a page from the Early Raynham History folder at the Raynham Public Library, "Since Raynham was a part of the territory known as Cohannet, in the colony of New Plymouth - later named Taunton - until it became a distinct town in 1731 - the history of Raynham until that date is the history of Taunton." (58)

APRIL 2, 1731 -
THE TOWN OF RAYNHAM WAS THEN BEGUN.

III. RAYNHAM'S SEPARATION FROM TAUNTON

One section of Taunton became a thriving area. They were successful in farming and industry, but the chief reason for success was the iron forge. This iron forge figured prominently in the desire of the people in that section of Taunton to separate and to become a distinct town.

Reasons stated in their petition for separation included dissatisfaction because of distance from church and school and the transportation difficulties. Residents said that they wanted to separate from Taunton and establish their own church.

However, many historians realize that having one's own meeting house and locally elected government were ways of insuring some degree of control over the growth of the community and development along rivers. Of particular importance for Raynham was control over the bogs from which iron ore was dug and over the fertile farm land along the Taunton River.

Residents of this particularly successful section of Taunton, spearheaded by Abraham Jones, petitioned for separation several times.

On December 8, 1726, the first petition was presented to the House of Representatives asking that "these inhabitants be exempt from charges for Taunton's meeting house and be set off as a separate precinct from Taunton." The petition was dismissed. (40:p.18)

In 1728 and again in 1729, petitions were presented. Finally in 1731, on April 2nd, by an act of General Court, were these words:

"... that part of the town on the easterly side of the great river may be...strong and capable to maintain a minister...they are far more capable than hath been pretended and we judge that there were near thirty families on that side of the great river that the committee that came to view the town did not then see - several of them such as are good livers and men of considerable estate..." (64)

Raynham, which at its establishment had just been named, was incorporated in 1731 with thirty families - including fourteen family names. The original family names were: Leonard, Washburn(e), King, Shaw, Dean, Hall, Gushee, Williams, Gilmore, Andrews, Hathaway,

White, Tracy, and Knapp.

Plymouth Colony had been divided into three counties in 1685, and Taunton was in the section called Bristol County. Hurd's 1883 Bristol County, Massachusetts gave Raynham's location as, "northeastern part of Bristol County, bounded on the north by Easton, on the east by Bridgewater and Middleborough in Plymouth County, and on the south and west by Taunton." (5:p.707)

Perez Fobes, in his 1793 description, had been more specific. "...36 miles south of Boston...bounded on the east by Bridgewater, on the west by Taunton, on the south by Taunton Great River, on the north by Eastown (sic), Bridgewater, and a part of Nippenicket Pond. ...eight miles long, four and one half miles wide." (2:p.166)

Raynham was the tenth town in Bristol County. One of the requirements of any new town was to establish a church and have a qualified preacher within three years.

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|---|
| CHARLES TOWNSHEND WAS HIS NAME; THE HOUSE OF LORDS WAS HIS GAME. |
|---|

One of the very first tasks the residents of the proposed township faced was the selection of a name for their town. At that time, New England towns were named for Englishmen of the era. Many of the early settlers - particularly the Deans and the Halls - had come from the Raynham, county of Norfolk, England area and were admirers of Viscount Charles Townshend. Townshend was: a member of the House of Lords, Fellow of the Royal Society, Knight of the Garter, a diplomat, Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk County, Captain of the Guard, and Secretary of State. He had just retired from public office in 1730 and was devoting himself to the improvement of agriculture, earning himself the nickname "Turnip Townshend."

The name of the town could be taken from the honored Englishman's surname, his title, or his seat of power. The settlers chose Townshend's seat of power, Raynham, as the name for their new town. However, we could have been called Viscount or Townshend. There are Raynhams in England, some spelled Rainham, but the one for which we are named is the one in Norfolk County.

IV. IRON WORKS

RAYNHAM WAS THEIR NAME;
AND IRON GAVE THEM FAME.

The most important contributing factor to the success of the section of Taunton now called Raynham was the first successful iron works in America, established in 1652, long before Raynham became a town.

Iron works had been established in Saugus in 1647 and before that, in Braintree in 1642, but they had not survived for more than two hundred years, which is how long the Raynham forge operated. More about that later.

James and Henry Leonard and Ralph Russell, originally from Wales - more recently of the Braintree works - came to Taunton in 1652, built a home, constructed a furnace, and began to produce iron ware. Iron production was the most sophisticated process of its day. The 'Ironmaster,' James Leonard, was equal in status to the clergy, who were the upper strata of the seventeenth century.

Elizabeth Pole, the founder of Taunton, was a stockholder in the 1652 corporation when the iron works was established on Two-Mile River, which is now known as Forge River. (22)

Producing iron ware was a complicated process.

Colliers were men who specialized in the production of charcoal. They cut trees from acres around the furnace, sawed them into suitable lengths, and stacked them into a pile. They placed clumps of sod over the logs. A fire was started and had to be guarded closely day and night. If it burned too fast, it might destroy the charcoal. They couldn't let the fire go out, either. The fire had to burn slowly and constantly, baking the impurities out of the wood and turning it into pure charcoal.

The furnace had a 30-foot-high chimney. Wagons backed to the top of it, and ore was shoveled directly down the smoke stack. Charcoal was placed in the chimney first - then bog ore - then a fluxing agent, like seashells, which helped ore separate from dirt.

Massive blasts from a huge bellows, tripped by a water wheel, directed more oxygen into the furnace. Flames from the chimney could be seen for miles around.

After the iron melted, it settled to the bottom of the furnace with the impure material known as slag rising to the top. Men raked off the slag.

They then opened a tap in the bottom of the furnace, and the molten iron ran out into a sow, which was a large hole dug in the sand. It trickled out of this into small molds, called pigs, where it cooled and hardened. The lumps of pure iron were then ready for the chemical change into steel.

In 1656, a "bloomerie" was built to enable the pig iron to be transformed into steel. Men took the pig iron from the sand to the bloomerie, a separate shop nearby, which had a gigantic trip hammer operated by a water wheel. The trip hammer weighed 500 to 600 pounds. (22:p.12A) The men reheated the pig iron in a hot fire and held it under the hammer that bent it into a red-hot pancake shape that glowed with heat,



Remains of Iron Works, photo circa 1880

or "bloomed." (12: p.23) In this process, carbon was combined with the iron to make it much stronger so that it would withstand much wear.

The blooms were then made into nails, spikes, kettles, skillets, anchors, chains, and wheel covers.

A LONG TIME AGO RAYNHAM HAD NO CARS;
FOR MONEY THEY USED IRON BARS.

In early Taunton, iron bars were used as currency for taxes. School teachers and ministers often received iron bars as their salary. People saw iron as the only stable measure that kept its value. (16:p.1)

The value of a sack of oats or a bushel of corn could vary depending on whether it was a good or a bad season. If bills were paid in iron, it provided some economic security. It was not unusual in those days for a farmer to carry 500 pounds of iron in a wagon into town to pay his bills.

Taunton was considered one of the richest communities after the Leonards established the forge. Although forges in other communities had failed, this one succeeded. The ores were free for the digging, the charcoal only required making, the power came from water wheels, the bellows were made from native cowhides, and the iron products found ready sale.

The forge continued for over two hundred years, and ownership passed through six generations. During the King Philip War, colliers refused to cut wood because they were afraid of the Indians, and the fires went out, and the forge did nothing for two years. Thomas Leonard and his brother, James Leonard, immediately followed their father in running the forge, and the family name was connected with the forge for many years.

When the iron works was sold to Josiah Dean, he began a nail works and a rolling mill. He also manufactured copper bolts to be used in ship building. These were the first produced in southeastern Massachusetts and were used for the first sloops and frigates of the fledgling U.S. Navy.

Many years later, in 1825, Josiah Dean's son, Eliab B. Dean, inherited the business and converted it to an anchor forge which continued to operate until 1873 or 1876 when cheaper Pittsburg steel forced local



The James Leonard House built in 1653 (no longer standing)

iron manufacturers out of business.

When our ore was gone, we got more from Lake Assawompset, and thus we kept fires burning much longer than those in nearby towns. Taunton River gave perfect transportation opportunities for export of iron ware and later for import of ore when the ore in our immediate area was gone. When a second forge was built on the Taunton River, steam tugs brought freight up river, entering shops by a lock and a canal. Rev. Enoch Sanford, in his 1870 History of Raynham, Massachusetts stated, "the water power is not excelled in the county, except at Fall River." (9:p.33)

Reinforcing the belief that the Raynham forge was the first successful forge are quotations from two old books.

Sanford wrote, "In accordance with the Taunton vote, on Oct. 21, 1652, and the permission granted, the Leonards and Russell erected works for the extraction of iron from the native ore, being the first iron manufactory established." (5:p.708)

A book printed in 1901 stated, "The foundation walls alone remain of the ancient iron works of 224 years - the oldest successful iron manufactory in New England." (61:p.11)

We do know that the local forge produced anchors for sea-going vessels in Taunton and up and down the coast. We have heard that Civil War contracts with the U.S. Navy had us cast several anchors for the ironclad Monitor. An 1862 newspaper article said, "We are informed that the anchor of the Monitor, which was of peculiar construction, having four flukes or hooks, was made at the forge of Theodore Dean, Esq., in the adjacent town of Raynham."

**THE CHAIN THAT KEPT THE BRITISH AWAY
CAN NOW BE SEEN ON DISPLAY.**

During the Revolutionary War, a chain was swung across the Hudson River to prevent the British troops from coming up. That chain was forged at the iron works in Raynham, and ten links of the chain are on exhibit at the Harmanus Bleeker Museum in Albany, New York. Each link is over 30 inches long and about 12 inches in circumference.

In 1976, the U.S. Navy sent an anchor back to Raynham. The anchor was placed at the site of the forge, where a boulder with a plaque memorializes the successful forge history. The iron forge is also memorialized on the official seal of the town of Raynham.

"The earlier iron forges, in Saugus and Lynn, were fitfully operated and were finally abandoned when their owners were harassed with frequent lawsuits arising from the overflow of the water in the dam. The fear that the works would create a scarcity of timber also appears to have added to their unpopularity." (61:p.7)

Operations were suspended in Braintree in 1653, owing to the scarcity of ore. (61:p.10)

These forges, "instead of drawing out bars of iron for the country's use, hammered out nothing but contentions and lawsuits." (61:p.7)

Other iron forges existed, but Raynham's flourished for over two hundred years and is considered by many to be the first successful forge.

V. KING PHILIP WAR 1675

MASSASOIT WAS KING PHILIP'S DAD;
WHEN HE DIED, THE WHITE MEN WERE SAD.

Massasoit, sachem of the Wampanoags, had established peaceful relations with the white men, and when he died, Massasoit's sons Alexander (Indian name, Wamsutta) and Philip (Indian name Metacom or Pometacom) pledged to keep the peace. This was not easy, however, as the English and the Indians struggled for survival and land. At times Philip and his men felt humiliated by the English.

The primary causes of the bloody conflict known as King Philip's War go far back of the outbreak of hostilities in 1675. It was undoubtedly inevitable, sooner or later. (1:p.34)

When Philip became sachem of the Wampanoags in 1662, it became evident that he was not likely to maintain the friendly relations with the English - so firmly established by his father. He was jealous of the progress of the settlers in occupation of the lands they had purchased, and he early began plotting with the Narragansetts and other Indians for their extermination. (1:p.35)

It took some time before the Indians realized that they were losing their land. The Indians did not possess the land in the same sense that the white men owned it. The land, the woods, the lakes, the streams, belonged to the Indians as they belonged to the birds and the beasts (58) They did not realize what they were selling.

Later, however, the Indians' children realized what possession meant to the white man, and they became resentful. They obtained the same kind of weapons as the white man used, and when finally the Indians' anger rose to fighting pitch, there was a bitter struggle as the Indians were driven from their home. (58)

An early book evidencing sympathy for the Indian included this passage. "The savage, the child of a wild environment, knew none of the restraints common to the stranger who broke over the horizon of his solitude, his freedom of living, and his independence of movement, with

the advent of that first ship from Plymouth." (10:p.192) The English, uninvited, were trying to take over the land of the New England Indians.

Anger and resentment had been rising, and when three of Philip's warriors murdered an informer, John Sassamon, and then were themselves executed for the murder, Philip's young braves started war.

**KING PHILIP COULD NO LONGER HOLD HIS BRAVES;
THEY PUT MANY WHITE MEN IN THEIR GRAVES.**

Although war had been contemplated, no coordinated plan had been worked out. In proportion to population, the King Philip War was one of the most costly, in lives, ever fought in North America. Neither side had been ready for war.

Philip became a symbol of the struggle, but he was never really in command and might not have been the great leader he was once assumed to be. However, he was influential enough to protect the area that is now Raynham. Philip had spent many summers at his summer residence on Fowling Pond, which was near the Leonards' iron forge. (Fowling Pond has now grown up to be woods. It's on King Philip Street near the end of Mill Street.) He had become friendly with the Leonards, and they had supplied Philip with beef, repaired his muskets, and furnished him with tools. He remembered these acts of friendship and gave orders to the warriors that they were not to injure any member of the Leonard family. Although the King Philip War spread terror and desolation through many towns nearby, the inhabitants of Raynham were saved from savage invasion.

Although the Leonards shared the feelings of friendship with Philip, the Leonard house just east of the forge was surrounded by palisades for protection and provisioned, just in case. (5:p.708)

Three towns which were not in the path of destruction - Barnstable, Yarmouth, and Eastham - invited people from this area to leave their settlements and live with them. The local residents refused the kind offer because it would "betray much difficulty and cowardice." (9:p.6) These records disclose the character of the men. Their leading object was to maintain the truths and institutions of the Christian religion, and in

pursuing this, they could bear danger and hardships with indomitable fortitude. (9:p.6)

The white men lived in fear of Indian attack. "By day, or by night, no white man was safe. As the white man ploughed or reaped, the fences along his fields were the crouching places of his inveterate enemy. The thickets by the roadside were likely at any moment to breathe forth a wisp of musket smoke when the fatal bullet would speed to his heart." (10:p.303)

Shortly before Philip's death, his wife and nine year old son were taken prisoners by the English, an event that crushed the heart and life of the sachem. (1:p.42)

On Saturday, August 12th, early in the morning, Philip was shot by a faithless Indian, and Captain Church cut off his head, and it was carried on a pole to Plymouth.

KING PHILIP'S HEAD WAS CUT OFF ONE DAY;
IT WAS THEN IN PLYMOUTH AND IN RAYNHAM - ON DISPLAY.

Present Day Wampanoags

There are still some Wampanoag Indians in this area. At one of their New Year's celebrations in Middleboro, they emphasized the importance of cooperation and communication among people of all races.

Lightning Foot, a tribal leader, said, "There is only one race, the human race, and we are all members." (26)

The Wampanoag New Year is celebrated around May 1 because the nature-loving Wampanoags believed that life returned to the earth at that time.

The group expressed the desire that a study of the American Indian be a part of every school curriculum, and they felt that the American Indian is entitled to a national holiday.

VI. EARLY RAYNHAM

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| <p>WE HAD GOOD SUPPLIES - CORN, FISH, IRON AND WOOD. OUR PATRIOTS WERE BRAVE; OUR CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS WERE GOOD.</p> |
|---|

The Raynham area was described by Perez Fobes in his 1793 history of Raynham as having "level smooth land, with few hills and excellent roads."

The chief crops were rye and Indian corn. The farmers raised plenty for themselves and for market.

The many trees which grew in the area included oak, walnut, maple, birch, elm, pine, cedar, locust, spruce, beech, buttonwood, hornbine, and sassafras. Sassafras was used extensively for posts and construction because it was found to be "the most incorruptible of any wood hitherto known." (2:p.167)

Early inhabitants' thoughts about the value of trees changed from time to time. At first, "when meadows were all occupied, the early settlers hacked upon the forests till they had cleared new fields. The trunks and limbs were rubbish, and the stumps were obstacles to be painfully removed. Such pioneers had little thought for shade trees." (9:p.49)

Perez Fobes commented, "The large quantities of coal consumed in carrying on the iron manufacture ... has, within a few years past, greatly enhanced the value of wood.

Upon the northerly part of the town, there is a large and valuable tract of cedar swamp, and towards the center are two considerable tracts more. The one is called the dead, and the other, the Titicut Swamp." (2:p.167)

During the King Philip War, men at work in the field could be ambushed by Indians who were hiding behind trees.

Following the Civil War, emphasis was placed on forest cultivation. The farmers showed what could be done in forest raising, on worn out land that would not otherwise pay for plowing, by devoting a few spare hours

to that occupation from year to year. Once again, people realized the value of trees.

The Taunton River provided good transportation as inhabitants sent products to Fall River, along the coast, or across the ocean. It also provided water to put out fires. There were herring in the river, and they used seine fishing to catch them. Besides the river, there were many streams which provided good water power for water wheels. (2:p.167) These were good spots for six saw mills, three grist mills, one furnace, a forge, and one fulling mill.

There were three ponds: a pond with a two mile circumference on the east side, Forge and Fowling Pond on the west, and Nippaniquit (or Nippahonsit) Pond on the north dividing us from Bridgewater.

Fareall, Smooch and Steep were the three major hills.

The first meeting house was built one fourth of a mile east of the forge on the north side of the road leading to Squawbetty. It was a very plain structure, built for \$1400, and had no blinds, steeple, bell, or stoves. Rev. John Wales was hired as the first minister and preached there for over thirty years. This first meeting house was built in 1731 and was used until 1771.

A second meeting house was built in 1773 on land purchased from Amariah Hall. (9:p.14) It was built in the center of town, near the intersection of two roads, three miles from the county courthouse. It had an elegant steeple.

Fobes wrote that in 1794 two hundred families, which numbered one thousand people, attended services. He said that Raynham was a good place to live, citing one family with five brothers and one sister, whose ages together added to more than five hundred years.

The people were mostly farmers, mechanics, traders, and professionals. Forges manufactured bar iron, hollow ware, nails, irons for vessels, iron shovels, and shingles. The citizens were unquestionably industrious, enterprising people. Many worked at the iron forge, which had been founded by the Leonards.

According to Fobes, "The circumstance of a family attachment to the iron manufacture is so well known as to render it a common observation

in this part of the county, viz, where you can find iron works, there you will find a Leonard." (2:p.175)

**RAYNHAM HAD A SUCCESSFUL IRON SITE;
THE MEN WORKED THERE WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT.**

The people in this area were considered to "live in one of the most patriotic towns in the state." (2:p.169) Our militia heard that a group was going to prevent a sitting of the October Court of 1786. Although they had only two small companies, they marched alone to Taunton, where they sat with arms all night before the court. The court sat!! They were the only companies to appear from all of Bristol County. They had stood firm but alone until the next morning, when troops under the command of General Cobb came and helped to crush the insurrection. They had remained that night in open defiance of all the bloody threats of an outrageous mob.

"On the last regimental muster at Taunton, the equipment and military appearance of the two Raynham companies met with distinguished approbation (sic) from the inspecting general; by him they were pronounced equal to any in the state." (2:p.170) Raynham had just cause to be proud of the militia!

The Leonards were probably the best known people of Raynham at that time, but the name of King Philip was famous, too. He had once lived there, and people talked about where he had lived, and had walked, and had bought beef and iron.

The Leonards were known for: longevity, promotion to public office, and their attachment to iron manufacture. (The Leonard name has continued to be well-known in Raynham. One of the items of interest in 1931 was that George Leonard, Raynham selectmen chairman, was a direct descendant of James Leonard.)

In 1773 Perez Fobes instructed languages, literature, arts and sciences. There were a library, six schools, four college graduates (men), and six were attending college.

Residents in 1988 refer to North Raynham, Raynham Center, and South

Raynham. When Raynham was first established, there were five villages.

1. Gilmore Village, near the depot of the Old Colony Railroad, had forty or fifty houses.
2. Prattville, which was one mile south, was described as a prosperous village.
3. Squawbetty was the principal center of iron manufacture.
4. The village about the Baptist Church, in south Raynham, had some of the best farms.
5. The village at the center had two churches, a post office, a store, and "numerous inhabitants and their dwellings."



The Toll House on Broadway (Route 138)

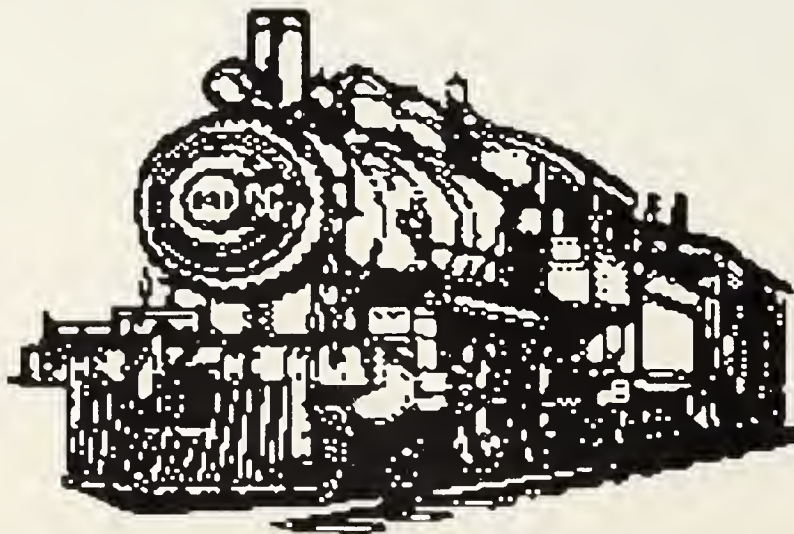
CATTLE AND TRAINS WENT DOWN ROUTE 138;
WE HAD PLENTY OF LAND, AND WE THOUGHT THAT WAS GREAT.

There used to be a toll house on Broadway (Route 138), near the Taunton line, where a fee was collected from those herding cattle down the Taunton Turnpike from the Brighton stockyards to areas of southeastern Massachusetts.

The Old Colony Line provided Boston to Fall River train service through Raynham.

Rev. Sanford wrote, "Our fathers laid out no space for a common. Land was in such abundance that it seemed incredible that the time should ever come when there would be less of it than the public convenience required." (16:p.3)

Although Perez Fobes, in 1793, wrote that Raynham had excellent roads, Rev. Sanford, in 1870, wrote, "A loamy soil and the insufficient supply of good gravel prevents many of the roads of the town from being at all times of the year, models for imitation. The heavy transportation over the main avenue of this town, leading from Taunton to Bridgewater, makes the task of keeping it in repair a difficult one."



VII. FAMOUS PEOPLE

WE'VE HAD MANY FAMOUS MEN IN OUR TOWN -
SOLDIERS AND MINISTERS OF GREAT RENOWN.

Rev. John Wales, who was established as Raynham's first minister, soon after Raynham became a town, preached there for over thirty years. He married Hazadiah Leonard, daughter of Samuel Leonard, and granddaughter of James Leonard.

Prudence Wales, daughter of Hazadiah and John, married Perez Fobes, who later became a Raynham minister.

Nancy Fobes, daughter of Prudence and Perez Fobes, married Simeon Doggett, who became a Raynham minister.

Rev. Perez Fobes (b. September 21, 1741) was the second minister of Raynham and its most famous minister. He was a Harvard graduate, and, soon after he became the Raynham minister, he started a school at home. It is said that the schools in Raynham during Dr. Fobes' ministry were of a higher order than in adjacent towns. He was well-read and a successful orator. He wrote a history of the town of Raynham in 1793.

Rev. Enoch Sanford was the fourth Raynham minister. He was ordained on Oct. 2, 1823 with a unanimous vote, \$500.00 salary, and the use of the parsonage. He married Caroline White of Weymouth. "Before the era of railroads, when all travelling was by horses and much of it by private conveyance, the parsonage was a center of hospitality for clergymen and friends passing that way." (6:p.45) He wrote History of Raynham, Massachusetts - from the first settlement to the present time - in 1870.

Rev. Simeon Doggett became pastor of the Second Congregational Church in 1828 and stayed for over twenty years. "He was far in advance of the other educators of that day and was an advocate for giving females the same advantages for instruction with the other sex."

Mr. Fisher was the first schoolmaster recorded in town reports. No first name was given, only the year of his employment - 1742.

The first settlers of Raynham included fourteen family names.

1. Leonard - They were founders of the iron forge and holders of

public office.

2. Washburn(e) - The name Washburn(e) was famous through several generations. One Israel Washburn was Raynham's delegate to ratify the Constitution. Members of the Washburn family became members of Congress from three different states, Governor of Maine, Secretary of State, representative to the General Court, a member of the Minutemen, and, locally the owner of a successful grist mill.

3. Dean. The Hon. Josiah Dean - Congressman - was a leading man in his town and county. He was elected to Congress early in the 18th century.

4. King, 5. Shaw, 6. Hall, 7. Gushee, 8. Williams, 9. Gilmore, 10. Andrews, 11. Hathaway, 12. White, 13. Tracy, 14. Knapp.

Abraham Jones was the principal advocate of separation from Taunton, and his name was first on the petition. His son, Timothy Jones, built a home on what is now Pleasant Street in 1700. His home was one-half mile northeast of the church. In 1988 his home is occupied by the Milliken family and is referred to in the section on homes, in this book.

Abraham Hathaway fought in the Revolutionary War, and he was one of Raynham's first town clerks. One Abraham Hathaway started a book bindery which later became the nucleus of the Davol Printing House, which still exists. His home is described in another section.

Amariah Hall, born in 1758 on South Main Street, gave music lessons and also wrote many hymns which are still sung. The tunes are his, and the words were taken from several biblical and contemporary sources.

Nathan Shaw was a member of the Raynham School Committee for twenty-eight years and then was the Superintendent of Schools in 1875. He married Sarah King, daughter of J. King, an inventor.

Seth Dean volunteered at age 17 to be a Revolutionary War soldier. He was in the first campaign of the war and at the Battle of Bunker Hill, as well as with the troops when the British evacuated Boston. He saw the British board their ships and leave the harbor. Then Washington marched in with his forces and took possession of the town.

Cuff Leonard was a black citizen of Raynham who served in the

Revolutionary War. He was brought up by the family of Capt. Joshua Leonard, whose surname he was given. He was referred to as a citizen because he was given his freedom because of his military service.

**TOBY GILMORE BROUGHT US FAME;
RAYNHAM RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW HIS NAME.**

Toby Gilmore, who was the son of a local chieftain, lived until his teens in Africa. His name was Shibodee Turrey Wurry.

One day in the 1750's, he and his friends were "gathering cocoas" from a tree and were ambushed by American slave traders. His friends got away, but he was in the tree, and he was captured. The slave traders kidnapped him and smuggled him aboard their ship which was headed for Virginia.

The captured Africans were crammed below deck. Slave quarters were usually three and one-half feet high. The males were shackled together in pairs, with the left ankle of one shackled to the right ankle of the next, with a yoke iron stapled to the planking between them. Women and children were crowded behind a screen, but they were not chained.

"The slaves were fed ten at a time, twice a day, with slabber sauce, which was made of flour, water, palm oil and pepper. At times all of the slaves were brought out on deck in handcuffs, while the crew went below to swab out the quarters with vinegar." (6:p.32)

The trip across the Atlantic was not an easy one, because the ship was heavily damaged by storms, and it put into the harbor at Newport, Rhode Island for repairs. The ship's master sold some of his slaves to finance the work.

Captain John Gilmore, of Raynham, purchased Shibodee Turrey Wurry on the slave block and renamed him Toby Gilmore. It was common then for a slave to take the family name of his master.

Toby became close to Capt. Gilmore and his wife, who had no children. Mrs. Gilmore taught Toby to read and write. He was raised in an atmosphere of love and respect and was given responsibility on the family farm.

On Sept. 16, 1776, Capt. Gilmore, then seventy years old, was

drafted. "The thirty year old, muscular, 5 feet 3 inches tall slave volunteered to serve in his master's place, and in return he was granted his freedom." (47)

TOBY GILMORE WAS A SLAVE;
HE WENT TO WAR AND WAS SO BRAVE.

Legends and records of Toby's service conflict. Legend says that Toby was assigned to the staff of General David Cobb, a Taunton officer who was serving on General Washington's staff. Washington was impressed by Toby's efficiency and loyalty, so he asked Toby to be his own servant. Enoch Sanford says that Toby was George Washington's aide. (9:p.43)

Legend also claims that Gilmore crossed the Delaware River with Washington in December of 1776 and was with Washington during the winter at Valley Forge.

However, records show that Toby was with Captain Jonathan Shaw's company on duty in Warren, Rhode Island when Washington crossed the Delaware. No records show that Toby served with General Cobb, either.

But there are no records for Toby between June 15, 1781, and Sept. 21, 1781 and General Cobb was assigned to General Washington's staff on June 15, 1781, so there is a remote possibility that Toby was with Washington and Cobb.

Who knows? Toby came back with wonderful stories, and it's difficult to separate imagination from fact.

Toby returned to civilian life on December 6, 1781. He saved his money, and a few years later, bought 45-50 acres of land formerly owned by John Borland, a Tory descendant of Elizabeth Pole. During the American Revolution, Borland's sympathies had been with the British, and because of this, he had to run for his life.

TOBY GILMORE SAVED HIS BOUNTY,
AND HE LIVED IN BRISTOL COUNTY.

Toby married Rosannah Hack and they had eight children. His first

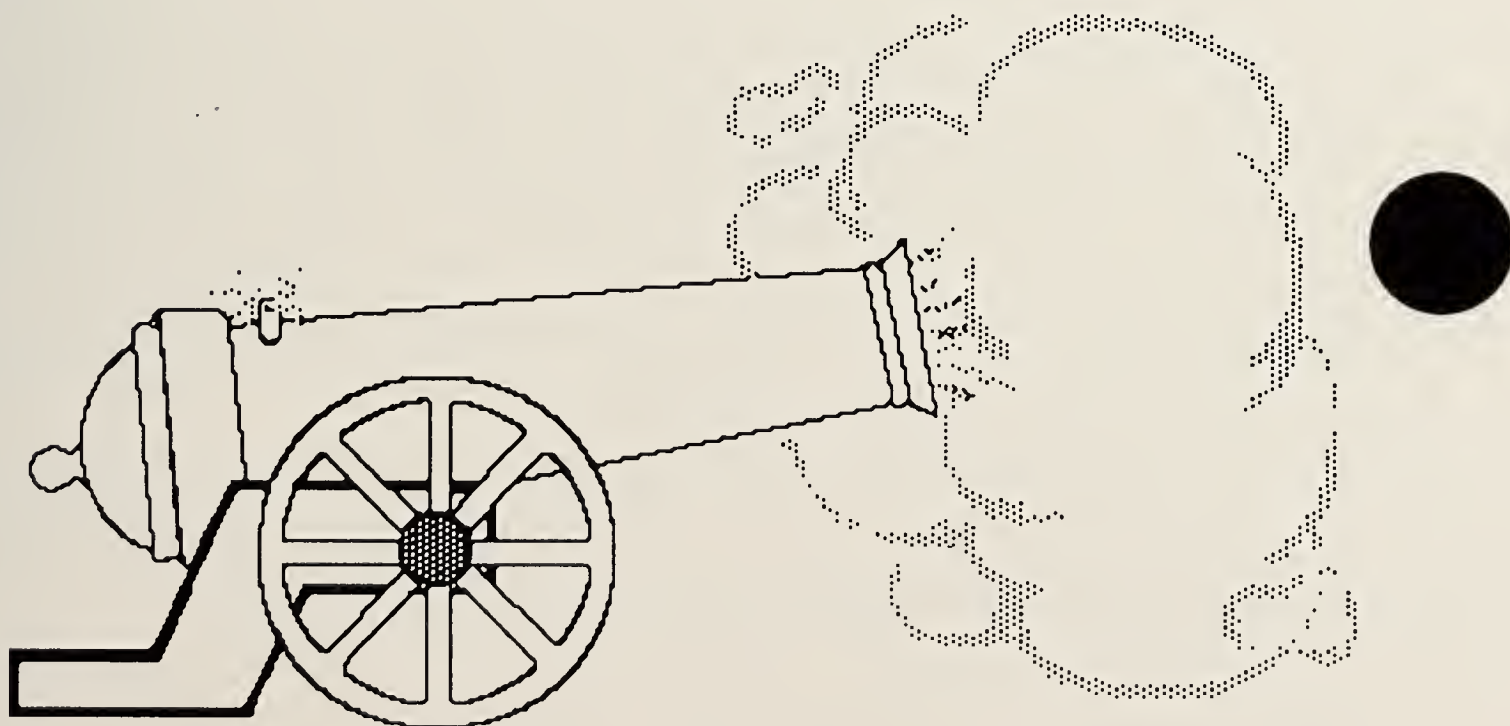
house, which still stands on Broadway, was built around 1784. It was "a plank affair with 12 inches by 12 inches corner posts and beams, planks nailed vertically into place both on the exterior and in dividing the rooms. The kitchen had a beehive oven and a chimney which had four fireplaces, in various rooms."

Toby built another house later, but it burned in 1918.

Legend says that Toby planted an oak tree in this front yard. There is a massive oak at least 200 years old, there today, so maybe it is the Toby oak.

Legend says that Toby was presented a cannon when he left the service, by General Washington, in appreciation for his faithful service. Fact indicates that he did have an old cannon.

The cannon was kept on the front lawn, and Taunton supposedly used the cannon in their 1876 festivities. Each year before he died Toby Gilmore would put on his uniform and haul the cannon to Taunton Green, where he loaded and fired it fourteen times. Thirteen salutes were for the original states, and the last and loudest was for General Washington.



THE OLD CANNON THAT WAS USED ONE DAY
IS NOW IN TAUNTON - ON DISPLAY.

The Toby Gilmore cannon is on display in the Military Room of the Old Colony Historical Society on Church Green in Taunton. Also on display is the front panel of Toby Gilmore's hat. His uniform is no longer displayed.

A grant from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities made the restoration of the front panel of the hat possible in 1986. It is framed behind glass and is currently displayed on the wall to the immediate left of the door into the Military Room. The words "Federalism and Liberty" are embroidered across the front panel of the hat. Ms. Compton, of the Old Colony Historical Society, says she thinks those words were added later because federalism wasn't a prevalent idea at the time of the Revolution.

Toby's children and grandchildren settled near Toby's home, and Gilmoreville became the black section of town. The Toby Gilmore family became farmers and were well-respected as industrious people who were good citizens.

Toby died on April 19, 1812, and Toby and some of his descendants were buried at the North Raynham Cemetery.

Toby Gilmore gave over two and one half years to the fight for liberty, serving ably and well, and for that he deservedly takes his place among the Revolutionary War heroes of Raynham. (12:p.31)

VIII. INDUSTRY

Early forge workers produced cart tires, axes, chimney cranes, andirons, hooks, spikes, nails, chains, ploughshares, bolts, shovels, and iron wire. (9:p.32)

IN RAYNHAM THERE WAS MUCH IRON WORK;
THAT'S WHAT MADE THIS LITTLE TOWN PERK.

Jobs listed by Sanford in his 1870 book on Raynham include: teachers, ministers, carpenters and builders, iron workers, tanners, bankers, neighborhood storekeepers, postmaster, physicians, justices of the peace, mill workers, sheriffs, and shoe workers. (9:pp. 29, 30, 31)

Sanford said that shoe manufacturing had advanced, by 1870. "The work of making shoes was formerly carried on in isolated shops where a few persons conducted the whole process by hand. Machinery and organized labor have superseded the old method." (9:p. 34)

In 1840 there was an increase in industry in Raynham with the opening of the railroad from Boston to New Bedford. The railroad station was in North Raynham, and in the later years of the trolleys, a large trestle was built over the railroad tracks on Broadway.

Around the same time, shoe shops, tack factories, and a box factory were added to the existing iron works and mills.

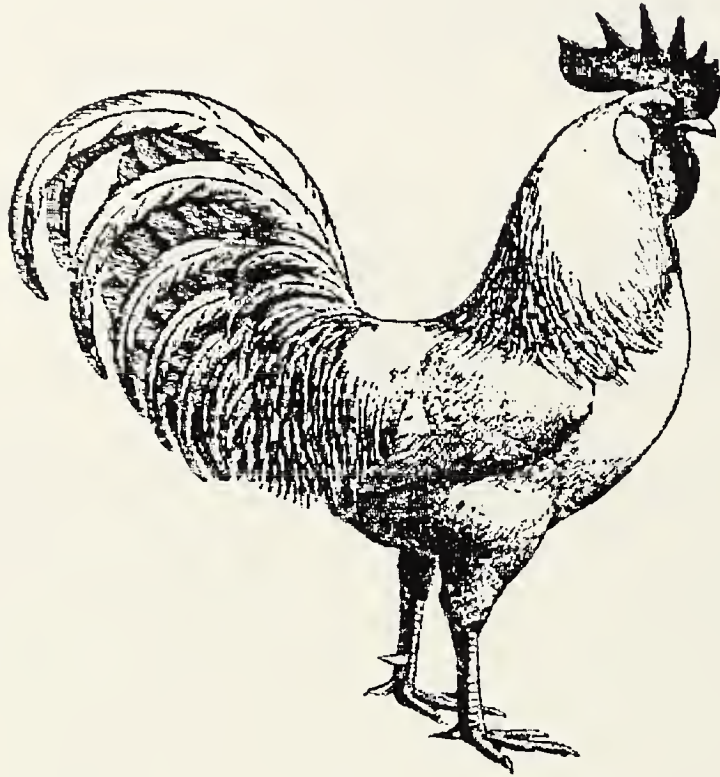
Along the Taunton River, a steam tugboat carried freight by way of a lock and canal.

The author of a 1970 article in the "Advocate" reinforces the idea of the importance of the iron forges. "What the iron mills produced, to till the soil, build houses, outfit ships, and hold a fledgling nation together is impossible to measure in tonnage." (16)

In addition to agriculture - gardens and milk - some worked at herring fishing or in a blacksmith and wheelwright shop.

After the World War I Armistice, many in Raynham were in local

industry and farmers, but some went to the neighboring towns of Middleboro and Bridgewater.



Large farms have given way to subdivisions and condominiums. The Hutchinson duck farm, which was operated for over fifty years and was one of the largest employers in town, is now Lakeview Drive. The Viles poultry farm is now condominiums on North Main street. A dairy farm was once situated where the housing subdivision called Pleasantfield is now located.

In 1968, 102 firms in Raynham reported to the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security that they employed about 1,121 persons. The wholesale and retail trades had 58.4, per cent and service industries accounted for 20.6 per cent of the employees. Seven manufacturing firms reported 65 persons on their payroll. Dog racing at Raynham Park in North Raynham added a seasonal economic factor.

In 1978, Attorney Paull Cushman said, "On the south end of town is the catalyst which will determine Raynham's future. The turning point in the town may be what happens to the Bay Colony land. The 350 acres of land, owned by the Bay Colony Shopping center, is the largest and the best located piece of land in the town." (29)

In 1988 retail/merchandising accounts for 57 per cent of our economy. Route 44 provides most of that employment. Service industry ranks second, with 23 per cent.

The Bay Colony land is finally being developed and will provide a variety of jobs to area workers

IX. LEGENDS

Before the King Philip War there was a large pond - two miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide. Fobes, in his 1793 history, expressed confusion. Somehow the pond had completely disappeared between the King Philip years in the mid 1600's and the Dr. Fobes era of 1793.

IS FOWLING POND STILL AROUND?
NO! IT'S NOW IN THE GROUND.

Rev. Fobes was convinced that the pond had existed. He listed reasons for his belief. 1.) white floor sand, 2.) smooth, water-washed stones, 3.) large supply of Indian spears, tools, pots, proving that natives did thickly settle that area, 4.) a 90 year old man then (1793-94) remembered canoeing and fishing there. (2:p.172) Fowling Pond did exist!

The area is now swampy, filled with huge trees, cedar and pine. Where did the pond go? In a bit more than one-hundred years, could trees have grown to fifty feet in height? How could such enormous trees have "sprung into existence"? People do not think organic matter would have filled in so fast. True, other ponds have disappeared, but smaller vegetation like high bush blueberries and slim sapling maples have taken over.

KING PHILIP WAS A GREAT LEADER;
WHERE HE SUMMERED - NOW IS CEDAR.



One possible explanation has been offered. When Route 44 was built during excavation near the Raynham line, workers found an earthquake fault with volcanic stone pushed up through. Does it seem possible that some of this pond, which disappeared so quickly and became a swamp filled with huge trees so rapidly, could have seeped away into that crack, perhaps to burst forth someday? One problem with that solution is that no one knows how deep or how long that crack was, nor in which direction it lay.

Another suggestion is that a great storm cut a swath through the embankment on King Philip Street and drained the pond. There is nothing left of the pond but the tall trees rising from a murky swamp. (53)

Another legend referred to in material in the Raynham Public Library mentions Tracy's Corner at what is now the Main Mill Shopping Center. "... where you didn't dare cross, for if you did, you would be in serious trouble" (due to old family feuds).

Another legend deals with King Philip's head. Fobes said, referring to the Leonard House near the forge, "In the cellar was deposited, for a considerable time, the head of King Phillip." (5:p.708) Young men and women of the area were supposedly invited to view the chief's head, and the men showed their bravery while the girls practiced their shrieking and fainting. Another version of the story states that the Leonards did keep King Philip's head, but to protect it, not display it. History is unclear as to whether the head was in the Leonard home before or after it was taken to Plymouth.

Fobes added to the legend by writing, "Under the door steps of the same house lie buried the bones of two young women who were killed, in flight, by Indians." (5:p.708)

The Hockomock Swamp in north Raynham has been the setting for a legend involving Big Foot.

Raynham, England has at least one famous legend. The Boston Sunday Globe featured the story. Perhaps the solidest of British ghosts is the famous "brown lady" of Raynham Hall, home of the Marquess of Townsend, who has actually been photographed.

George Meegan, a resident of Rainham, Kent, England is on his

way to becoming a legend. In 1977, he walked 19,017 miles from the southern tip of South America to the top of Alaska. It took him seven years and four months as he crossed fourteen countries. His achievement has been certified by the Guinness Book of World Records. On his leg he has a tattoo - a map of his route. (55) (That's not "our" Raynham. We're from County Norfolk, not County Kent!)

Evidence seems to indicate that early residents were involved in the Underground Railway. (6:p.34) There were two possible hiding places for fugitives who stayed at the Toby House. One small area between the chimney system would have offered ideal concealment. Also in the crawl space under the house, there is, under the chimney, a type of stone room with shelves niched into the rocks.

There is a house on South Main Street which has a secret passageway beside the chimney leading up to the attic where Negro slaves were hidden during the Civil War days. It is also believed that that house had a secret hiding place between the first and second floors of the front hallway. In addition, a girl in the 1840's - Sarah Hathaway - wrote in her journal that she was going to the church to hear a lecture by a runaway slave. Virginia Cole Bellamy of Mansfield, who once lived in the Hathaway House, has in her possession the original diary of Sarah Hathaway. It was started in 1841 and kept, sporadically, into the 1870's.

Reportedly, a hidden tunnel ran from the basement of a house on Judson Street - under that street - to a "crypt-like thing" on the opposite side of the street. Records state that this was used in the underground railway.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY HELPED MANY A SLAVE;
RAYNHAMITES WHO HID THEM WERE VERY BRAVE.

X. THE RAYNHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Early Raynham residents recognized the value of reading. On April 7, 1888, ninety-three citizens signed the first library report. It read, "We, the undersigned of Raynham, wishing to add to the educational advantages of the town, and knowing how great the need is of a well-equipped library that shall be free, under proper conditions, to every person regardless of sex, creed, or color, do hereby form ourselves into an association for the purpose of establishing and maintaining such a library, and we individually and collectively agree to aid and assist the objects of this association to the best of our ability." (6:p.14)

The library was first located in Dean Hall, on Johnson's Pond. Later it was housed in the town "Tramp House," near the site of the present town buildings. The present building was completed in 1949; the lower floor became the Children's Room in 1961; the building was expanded to its present size in 1971. The Library Association is run by a board of directors headed by a president. When the library was erected in 1949, it contained 8500 books. In 1988 there are 27,275 books.

Since 1903, the dog tax has been a continuing source of revenue. (17:p.11)

Circulation figures indicate that the library is a busy place.

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1916 - 3,752 | 1971 - 32,072 | 1988 - 34,847 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|

On June 11, 1988, the annual Children's Birthday Party was celebrated. The theme was, "History - 100 Years Ago," in conjunction with the library's centennial celebration of its establishment in 1888. Children came in costume of characters of history. Sally Caputo and Kathi Voller, of the newly formed Friends of the Raynham Library group, were chairmen, and Ellen Ranney, children's librarian, awarded the prizes. Featured in the party's activities were a parade, refreshments, pony rides, face painting, thumb printing, and an old-fashioned penny candy store. In addition to Mrs. Ranney, the director, there are five more librarians. They are Marie Ventura, Lorna Sylvia, Barbara Dean, Joanne Cain, and Jean Ryan. The president of the Library Board is Robert Newton.

XI. CHURCHES IN RAYNHAM

When Raynham became a town, it was required by law that they establish a church and a school. The first meeting house was built on Richmond Street - the road by Squawbetty (East Taunton). That meeting house was not far from the Leonard iron forge. John Wales, who was married to James Leonard's granddaughter, became the first minister. The church was plain, but it served the needs of its parishioners.

In 1832, two new churches were built - a Congregational Church in Raynham center and the first Baptist Church in south Raynham. The wooden Congregational Church burned in 1912, and the stone church was built at the intersection of the main streets in town. The North Raynham Congregational Church was built in 1875. A Unitarian Church met near Johnson's pond in the early 1800's, and the newest church, St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church, was started in 1960 when Masses were celebrated in Gilmore Hall. In March, 1961, the first Mass was celebrated in the lower hall of the new church, and the solemn blessing of St. Ann's Church was on July 16, 1961. Rev. Leo Sullivan was the first pastor.



First Congregational Church built near the Iron Forge



The Stone Congregational Church built in 1912

In the early days, each time a new church was formed, persons withdrew from one church to join another. The first Congregational Church had fifteen male and seventeen female members. The church was the meeting house, and only church members could vote.

In an unpublished paper by Lillian O'Brien in the Raynham history folder in the Raynham Public Library, the right to vote is explained. "In the days when this country was first settled by devout church members, only these could vote on town business. Since new church members could come only from families already church members, the right to vote became an exclusive and much sought-after privilege.

In the time of the Revolution, state and church were by law completely separated." (63)

In 1875, twenty-one men and women from North Raynham began to hold services in Gilmore Hall because the nearest church was at the center of Raynham, and that was too far to walk. Their first minister was Rev. Charles Thurston. Martin Luther Hall, who was born in Raynham, left money



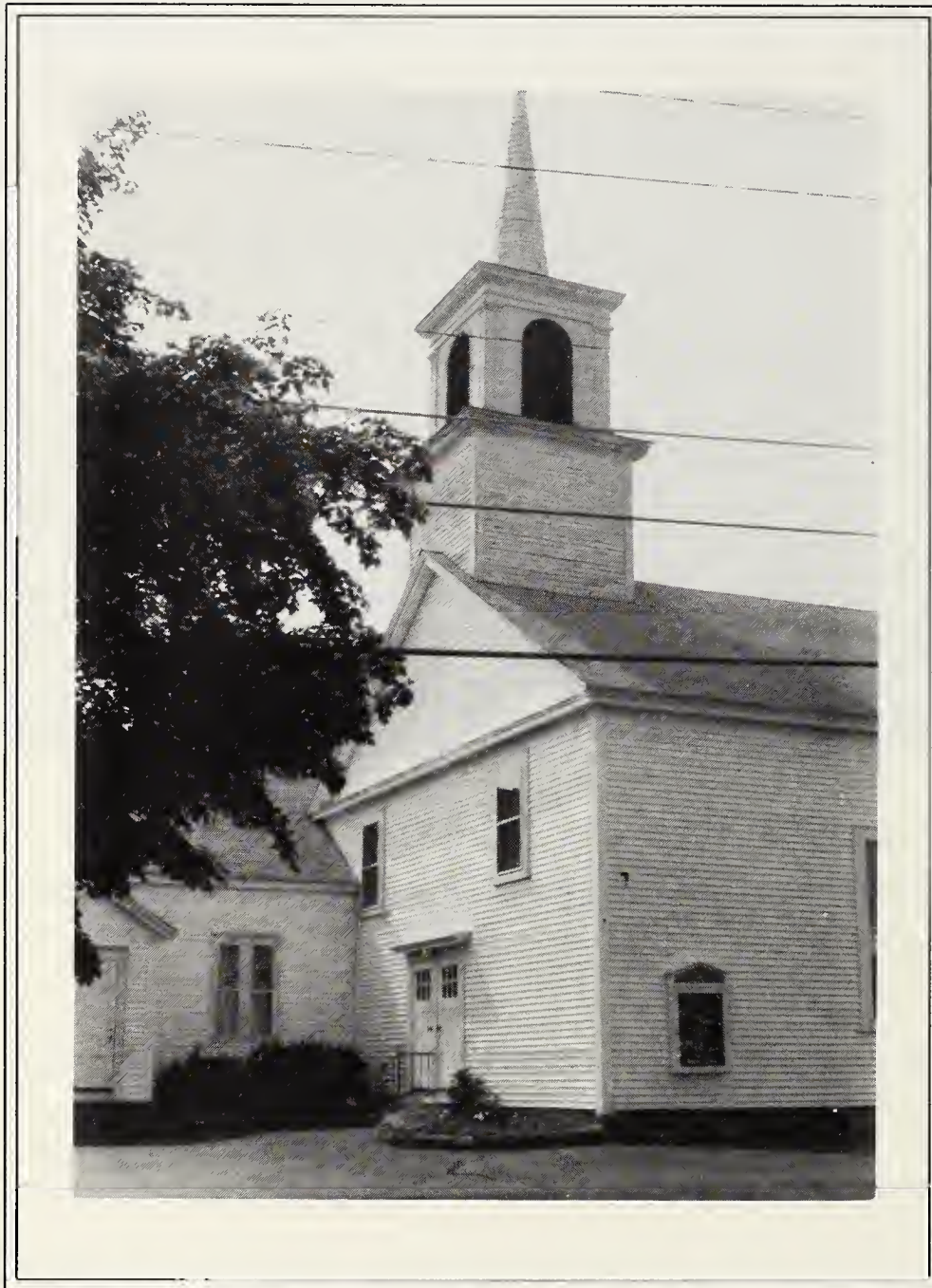
North Raynham Congregational Church built in 1875

in his will to purchase land and build a church. It was dedicated in November of 1876, and the people in the north section had their church.

It was not uncommon when a new church was built to sell pews to the parishioners. When the Congregational Church was built in the center of town, Israel Washburn sold pews to help with the expenses. The first four Congregational ministers were John Wales, Perez Fobes, Stephen Hull and Enoch Sanford.

The Baptist Church, built in 1832, had a 150th celebration in 1982. When the parishioners themselves built an addition, a quote in the Raynham Public Library folders expressed how people felt. "Dedication is what they are calling the event scheduled for the First Baptist Church tomorrow afternoon, and the term can be used either to describe what they are doing to a new building there or to the attitude of the parishioners." (57:p.9)

Previous to the building of the Baptist Church, services were held at the home of Asa King, on what is now Hill Street. Two rooms of his house were furnished with low benches for seats.



Baptist Church built in 1832

When the Taunton River was surveyed, the Coast and Geodetic Surveyors, who are responsible for surveying rivers, placed a permanent marker in the steeple. Surveyors always use brass markers in concrete or stone, but the unusual feature of this marker is that it is a nail painted red. This marker is one of three used in locating the Town of Raynham.



St. Ann's Catholic Church built in 1961

Churches have continued to be an important part of the lives of Raynham residents as St. Ann's joins the list of churches which have had to expand their facilities. St. Ann's is now conducting a drive to fund a free-standing church hall, which will be built beside the church.

XII. SCHOOLS

OUR SCHOOLS ARE GOOD - PEOPLE WILL TELL YOU THAT;
TO EDUCATORS THROUGH THE YEARS - A TIP OF THE HAT!

Education has always been a priority with Raynham citizens. When the town was first established, the locations of the schools varied yearly as the schools were held wherever there was the largest concentration of students. At about the time of the Revolution in 1789, the town was divided into eight districts, and the first real school houses were built, one in each district.

In the school year 1872-1873, there were 286 children in the schools. North - 31, Tracy - 30, Prattville - 28, Gushee - 19, Center - 37, East - 24, South Grammar - 34, South Primary - 61, Gilmore - 22.

In 1971-1972, about one hundred years later, there were five schools in town, and our high school students attended the nearby Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School. North - 105, Center - 146, South - 117, Lille B. Merrill - 511, and Junior High - 640, a total of 1,519 students in those schools. Bridgewater Raynham: 9th grade - 152, 10th - 160, 11th - 139, 12th - 117 - a final total of 2,087 Raynham students. In addition, some Raynham students chose to attend Bristol County Agricultural School, Bristol Plymouth Regional Vocational High School, or Coyle Cassidy High School.

In 1865, some boys were reprimanded in the town report. "Some small boys at the commencement of the school were obstreperous and unmannerly, by hanging on behind carriages passing, using improper language; some times horses were frightened and missiles thrown. Bursting out of school uproarously (sic), so as to excite in travellers a fear for their horses, is to be corrected by both parents and teachers." (67:p.4) The School Committee that same year was concerned about salaries. "Women teachers earn \$3.75 a week. Girls in the weaving or spinning rooms of factories receive higher wages." (67:p.8)

Students today would find it difficult to understand one of the policies stated in the 1868 town report. "...fifteen minute recess each

half day for each scholar. In no case shall boys and girls have their recess at the same time."

One item in the 1876 town report expressed concern that there had been twenty-five deaths - mostly from pneumonia and consumption.

Nathan Shaw, the first school superintendent, was outspoken on several issues when he submitted his report. "Town meeting instructed the School Committee to choose a superintendent of schools. It also expressed its desire to have the labor performed for the enormous sum of one hundred dollars. Accepting the office under these circumstances, I have endeavored to perform as little labor as possible and come within the requirements of the law. Still, I have written in the interest of the schools, 57 letters, and made 121 regular visits." (69)

The most important problem facing Nathan Shaw, the first superintendent in 1876, was poor attendance. "There is a reluctance and a disposition to rebel on the part of some parents, against the rules requiring an excuse for absence or tardiness. In thus opposing one of the regulations which is absolutely necessary to the well-being of the whole, do you not know your act is an indirect attempt to destroy the good influence of the teacher and finally ruin the school?"

The matter of compulsory attendance at school is attracting the attention of all educators, of all those who look forward to the prolonged good and growth of our nation." (69)

Hattie W. Lincoln was the first woman elected to the Raynham School Committee in that same year - 1876.

In 1877, when there were 325 students in Raynham, the town report stressed that medals were given to the students for excellence in attendance and deportment.

The School Department has always been concerned with budget. "Four years ago...Raynham stood number three among the nineteen towns in Bristol County, in the amount raised for the education of each child. We are now at number sixteen. We do not ask to have our town take the lead of all the towns in Bristol County, but we do think the people of Raynham should not be satisfied with a position so far below the average." (39:p.16)
The year was 1879.

Nathan Shaw, who was still the Superintendent of Schools in 1882, indicated that discipline was a problem in the schools, and asked the mothers to think more about supporting the teachers in their attempts to have the children behave properly.

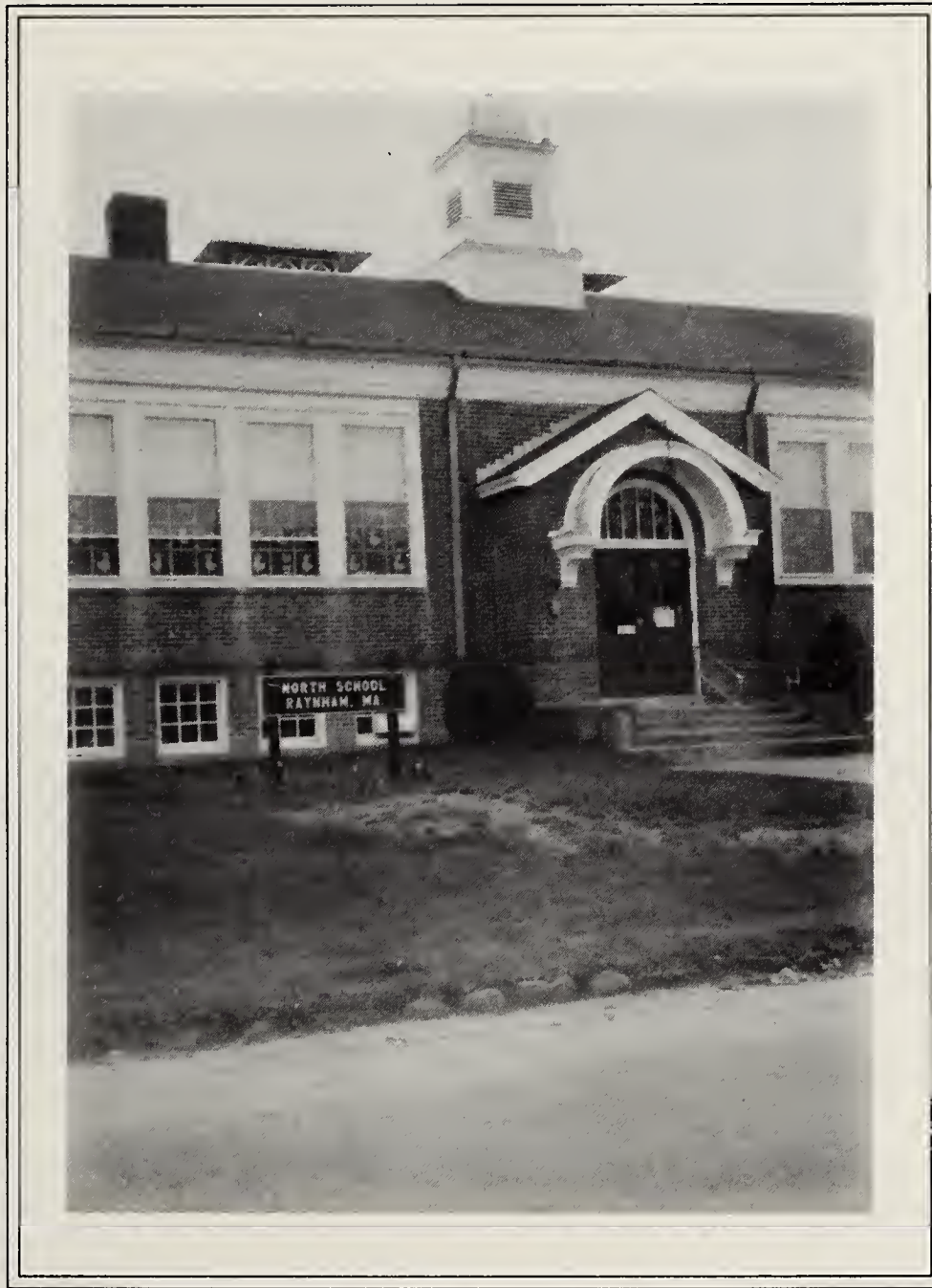
"Place yourself, Mother, in the teacher's position, only for one day. What an amount of labor is required of them that you do not see. You then will perhaps have a faint realization of some of the trials to which a teacher's life is subject. You think it a difficult matter to obtain order with your few children at home, long for night to come, that the ceaseless tumult may be hushed, that your aching head may know the blessing of a quiet house. But how with the teacher? Do you strive to lighten the heavy burdens that fall upon her shoulders, compared with which yours are about a feather's weight? Do you give her your kindly encouragement by a good word now and then, by frequent visits of sympathy, and by persistent endeavors that no children of yours shall annoy or dishearten her? If you do, you are doing much to provide for the present welfare of the town and the future prosperity of the town."

Three pages of the 1883 town report were devoted to the number of words spelled correctly by each student and the percentage of words spelled correctly in each school. For instance, at the North School, 8,340 words were spelled. Of those, 7,611 were spelled correctly. The per cent for the school was an admirable 91 per cent. At the other schools, the percentages were: Tracy - 96, Prattville - 94, Gushee - 85, Center Grammar - 87, Center Primary - 92, South Elementary - 91, and South Grammar - 95.

In her unpublished paper titled "The Development of the Raynham School System Through the Nineteenth Century," Margaret L. McGuire noted that early school reports in the town reports commended good teachers and reprimanded those who were not successful. (62)

She also noted that the 1896 report gave the information, "...New adjustable seats and desks were installed. Previously, there had been but four sizes of desks while many sizes of children were expected to occupy them."

In 1922 on March 25, the town meeting voted to appropriate a sum of money to build a school in north Raynham. Finally in 1925, the town voted



North School built on Baker Road in 1927

\$30,000 for the North School. Occupancy took place about 1927. (44)

On March 21, 1931, the town meeting voted to have a committee bring in plans and specifications for a four-room school for south Raynham to replace the large wood-framed school. On April 25, 1931, it was voted to construct the building at a cost of \$29,000. (44) There are now six classrooms. One unique factor in the construction of South School was that one section of the main floor was movable and could be raised or lowered, similar to the stage at Radio City Music Hall in New York. However, the floor has been stationed and secured at one level for many

years. Miss J. B. Goodick, long-time South School principal, was an example of the finest teachers of her time.



The First South School



South School built in 1931

The original Center School on South Main Street was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1918. At a town meeting in the spring of 1919, the voters decided with a 22-3 vote to erect a new school at a cost of \$16,000. Students entered the building in the fall of 1920, and the impressive brick building became a source of pride to Raynham citizens. The school is now called the Sullivan School.



The Center School built in 1920, now called The William J. Sullivan School

In 1957, the Pleasant Street School was built. The Raynham Junior High was built in 1965 close to the Pleasant Street School. In 1960, Raynham became a member of the Bridgewater Raynham Regional School District, sharing construction costs of a new high school to be built in the neighboring town of Bridgewater. Dr. E. Joseph LaLiberte became the first full-time school superintendent for Raynham. The name Barbara Sullivan, who was principal of the Pleasant Street School, was synonymous with discipline and a drive for excellence in education. Miss Sullivan retired in 1969.



The Pleasant Street School, now known as the Lillie B. Merrill School , built in 1957

In 1966, an appreciation dinner was held for Lillie B. Merrill, who was referred to in the program as "Raynham's gracious lady." She and her husband and their two children had moved to Raynham in 1925. She was elected to the offices of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer in 1928 by 58 ballots. She served these offices until March, 1966. Until the town office building was constructed in 1957, she made her home her office. She was also the town accountant and a Justice of the Peace. In her years of office, she recorded 1299 marriages and 2171 births. Everyone in Raynham knew her, and now what used to be the Pleasant Street School bears the name of Lillie B. Merrill.

In 1981, announcement was made that Proposition 2 1/2 necessitated the "mothballing" of the North and South Schools. (44:p.9) Dr. E. Joseph LaLiberte, Superintendent of Schools, said, "This is just a temporary move, and they will reopen in the foreseeable future. They are being mothballed and a complete security system will prevail." (44:p.9) Kathleen Roberts, who had been principal of the North School for seventeen years, and Dorothy Newton, who had been principal of the South School for

fifteen years, were joined by delighted parents and students when the closings were finally deemed unnecessary.

In 1982, more than five-hundred people gathered to honor E. Joseph LaLiberte on his retirement. He had served the town well since his appointment as superintendent in 1966. When he was told that the junior high school would bear his name, he said, "I can't think of anything that would honor me more. It is just awesome. My name is part of the town of Raynham now. I hope the town will be proud of me having served it." (46:p.1)



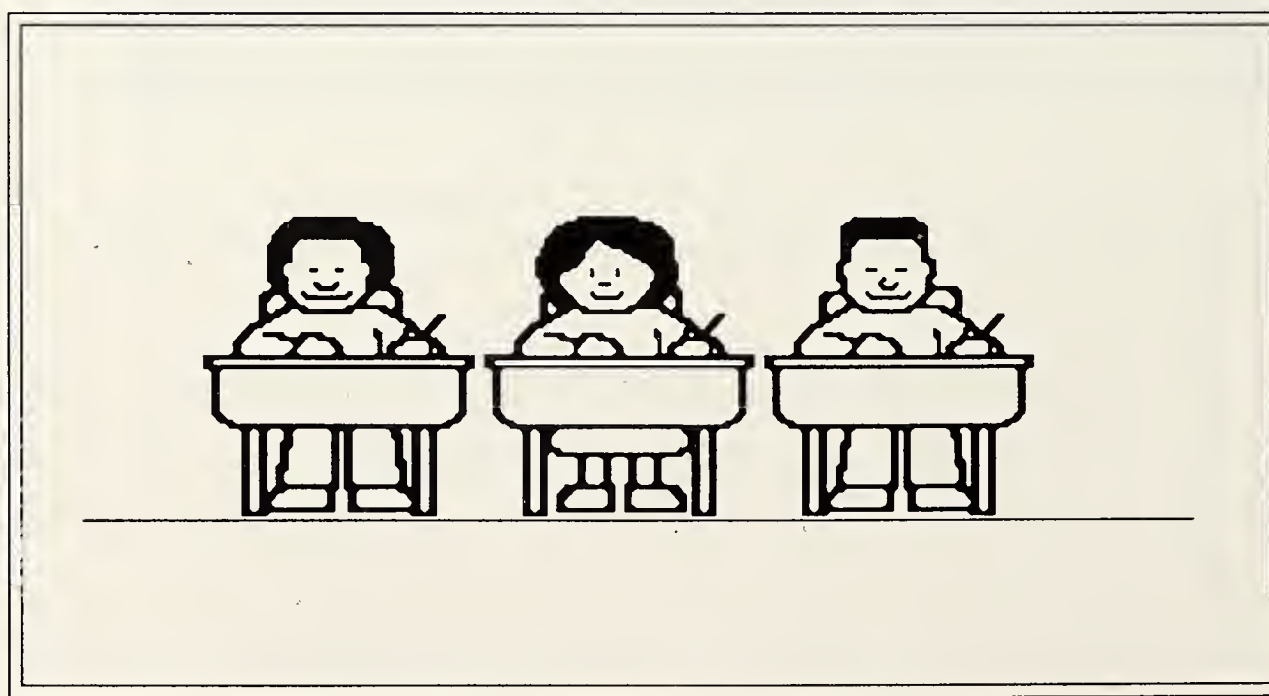
The Dr. E. Joseph LaLiberte Junior High School built in 1965

William J. Sullivan, Jr. became Superintendent of Schools when Dr. LaLiberte retired. Mr. Sullivan had been with the system many years, as the principal of the junior high school, Curriculum Coordinator, and Assistant Superintendent. When Mr. Sullivan retired in 1987, hundreds gathered, and he was presented with many gifts. One of the most important announcements was that the Center School, where Mr. Sullivan had had his office for many years, was being renamed the William J. Sullivan, Jr.

School in his honor.

Dr. Eileen C. Williams was elected to the office of Superintendent of Schools when Mr. Sullivan retired. Then Dr. Joseph L. Gilbert was elected as Assistant Superintendent. The Assistant Superintendent of Schools under Mr. Sullivan, Vincent Scaduto, had been scheduled to become the superintendent when Mr. Sullivan retired, but Mr. Scaduto was tragically killed in a wintry auto accident one morning on his way to school. The first year for the new administrators was one that saw the first-ever strike by Raynham teachers.

In 1988 there were 1,329 students enrolled in the five town schools. North - 91, Sullivan - 188, South - 140, L. B. Merrill - 475, and E. J. LaLiberte Junior High - 435. There were seventy-eight teachers. Classroom teachers numbered: North - 4, Sullivan - 7, South - 6, L. B. Merrill - 22, and E. J. LaLiberte - 26. There were three music specialists, five physical education instructors, two art teachers, one speech therapist, and two librarians. In addition, there were three guidance counselor/psychologists. (70) Assisting in the classrooms were volunteers organized by Shoshanah Garshick in a group called R.A.V.E. - Raynham Association of Volunteers for Education.



XIII. RAYNHAM HOMES AND BUILDINGS

THERE ARE SOME BEAUTIFUL OLD HOMES IN OUR TOWN.
WE'RE GLAD THEY WERE NOT ALL TORN DOWN.

The Leonard House was built opposite Anchor Forge in 1653. There were two rooms on the first floor - one 15' x 12' and one 12' square. There were three rooms upstairs, and the lean-to across the whole length of the back of the house had three rooms there. James Leonard entertained King Philip in his home. During the King Philip war (1675-1676), even though Philip had told his braves not to harm the Leonards, the Leonards took no chance and garrisoned their home, for protection.

Enoch Sanford, in his 1870 book, wrote, "The houses of one hundred years ago were oak-framed and covered and finished with home-grown pine. They were low, with small windows and projecting beams. The roof usually sloped nearly to the ground in the rear. Most houses had a huge chimney in the center of the house and small cellars with no light."

Between 1700-1793 ... "If the roof kept out a part of the rain and if the walls broke the wind ... the house was pronounced comfortable and a fit dwelling. The candles would flare on the table from the wind through the chinks. Sashes were lead with diamond-shaped panes. There was no paint inside or out, and they had no carpets." (9:pp.37,38)

Through the years, houses have been built in all areas of Raynham. Several large areas of farm land have been given over to planned housing developments. The rapid population growth has been a concern for many years because the growth brings with it the need for increased services. Although most homes in Raynham are single-family homes, there are now mobile home parks, a housing development for the elderly, and newly-constructed condominiums. Before discussion of these trends, here are descriptions of some of the interesting homes in Raynham.

The home at 355 Pleasant Street, which is now occupied by the Milliken family, is thought to have been built around 1700 and is regarded as one of the very oldest in Raynham. It is called the Timothy Jones House.

F. W. Hutt, in a 1939 Taunton Daily Gazette article, wrote that the house was the birthplace of Samuel G. Jones, who was in his 90's at the time of Hutt's article. The house was described as a ten room-colonial residence with wide and thick boards on the floors, sides, and overhead. There was no fireshelf at first, but a substantial shelf was placed there later. Hutt said that "some of the floor boards are uneven as they join, but they do join with a floor-wide evenness." There was a large, rough closet near the kitchen fireplace. Residents probably dried wood or clothing there. The doorways were "high enough for a person of height to pass through." HL hinges were used throughout the house. (14)

Through the years, the house has been used for storage, as a shoe factory in the 1800's, as a moonshine manufactory in the 1920's, as a tenant house, and a private home. (29)

Mr. Milliken has found artifacts in his garden. He has dug up a lock made of Raynham iron, a spoon mold, a fireplace toaster, and Indian arrowheads.



The Timothy Jones House (Milliken) built circa 1700

The Newcomb Reid home, at 381 Pleasant Street, is a charming old home built in the early 19th century for Samuel Jones. There are two chimneys on either side of the house. The date 1810, carved in the center beam in the basement, is a clue to the date the house was built.



The Samuel Jones House (Reid) circa 1810

The Abiathar Wilbur home, at 340 Pleasant Street, across from the Timothy Jones House, is described as, "... loveliest example of classic New England architecture. It is a good, typical post Revolutionary house, built with a delicacy of proportion and mastery of materials by a carpenter who was also an excellent wood carver."

The house was built by Abiathar Wilbur for his new bride Abigail. The foundation was made from New Hampshire granite, which had been hauled by oxen cart over dirt roads. Wilbur's home, which was later used as a tavern and a "poor house," to house town indigents, has many interesting architectural features. The front door has a leaded glass fanlight. The capitals of the pilasters are hand-carved apple blossoms. Two chimneys are placed on center. A series of small rectangular blocks project like teeth from under the cornice. There are seven fireplaces, and the mantle

of one fireplace has hand-carved angel faces on either side. Beautiful balustrades decorate the stairs to the second floor. One bedroom closet has a kick-door opening to a ladder leading to an attic space large enough to secrete several people.

The Freeman home, 606 Pleasant Street, was probably built between 1830 and 1855 by the Hathaways and owned by this family for five generations. Outstanding features include three working fireplaces, hand-hewn pegged beams, and wide pine floor boards. The property has been traced back to the early 1700's as a fort during the Indian War and was owned by three generations of the Crosman family.



The Hathaway House (Freeman) circa 1830-1855

The home of Robert and Patricia Adams, at 808 Pleasant Street, is known as a Gushee House. The date October 12, 1779 is carved in the paneling over the hearth in the "keeping room" (main room). It is a typical New England farmhouse with two rooms of equal size in the front part of the house, upstairs and down, with the "borning room," "keeping room" and "buttery" along the back of the house on the first floor and small bedrooms on the second floor. A wing and large barn were added around the mid 1800's. The residents believe that the kitchen of the wing was the former summer kitchen of the main house, and they've heard that this room was separated from the house, jacked up, and moved on rollers to the new addition by horses or oxen.

Many homes in that neighborhood belonged to Gushee families, and there was a Gushee School on the side of the street where today's schools are located.

About 1690, two Gushee brothers left France, and David settled in the Taunton/Raynham area. Many of their descendants settled in the area of White Street and Pleasant Street.



The Gushee House (Adams) circa 1779

When the Adamses bought the house in 1969, much repair and restoration were needed. The previous year the house had been used as the annual Halloween haunted house.

Many of the very old homes in Raynham were built on Pleasant Street and South Main Street, because this was the area near the iron forge.

The Feehan Home (Bourget), at 254 South Main Street, features the traditional beehive oven. There are five fireplaces out of one chimney. Residents feel that the tiny room off the kitchen was probably the birthing room. The construction is post and beam.

The Hathaway House at 366 South Main Street is now owned by the Collins family. The exact date is unknown, but records indicate that this house was built in the early 1700's. Seven generations of Hathaways lived there. There were several Abraham Hathaways. One Abraham was one of a handful of Raynham citizens who fought in the Revolutionary War. Hathaways included one who was a Representative to the General Court in 1801, one who was involved with the Constitution of the United States, one who was in the Civil War, and one who was one of Raynham's first town clerks. Residents ran a tanning business there at one time, and one Hathaway started a book bindery which later became the nucleus of Davol Printing House in Taunton.

The house has architectural and colonial beauty. It was bought by two men in 1945 for about \$5,000. They did much of the repair work, retaining all of the early colonial features.

Interesting features of the house:

1. There are six working fireplaces and two dutch ovens. These ovens were for baking. Bricks were heated in the fireplace and placed inside the oven until the oven was hot enough to bake in. Then cooks removed the bricks, placed the bread in the oven, and put the bricks back in the oven to retain the heat until the bread was baked. There was no electricity, of course, and the women thought that their ovens were very efficient.

2. The house has one of only two authentic arched ceilings known

to be in existence in the country. The Duponts, of Delaware, once offered the owners \$1,000 for the arched ceiling, promising to replace it with any type of ceiling the residents wanted, but the owners refused the offer. The ceiling is located in the room above the front hall.

3. Most of the windows are hand-blown. Some have 16 panes, some are 12 over 12; and others are 8 over 8. The hand-blown glass is wavy and causes distortion.



The Hathaway House (Collins) built in the early 1700's

4. The hand-hewn beams were pegged together. The house was drafty because the wide boards used unplanned, just as they came from the trees, did not fit together well, causing wide cracks.

5. The floor boards, 20" wide and 1 1/2" thick, were either pegged or square nailed. One of the boards in the master bedroom still has the bark on it.

6. The hinges and latches on the doors are hand-wrought. There are only two doorknobs - one on the front door and one on the back door. The front door features a huge bolt-type lock.

7. It is believed that there was a secret passageway leading up to the attic beside the chimney in the front hall. Negro slaves were probably hidden there during and just before Civil War days. It is also believed that there was a secret hiding place between the first and second floors of the front hallway. Historians think this was probably a station on the Underground Railroad.

8. The house in the legend about King Philip's head was probably the house which was first built in back of the present house.

9. There is a natural spring in the cellar.

The Sportman home, referred to in early history records as the Sanford Residence, at 656 South Main Street, was built in 1761. Sometimes it's referred to as the "Old Parsonage." It was built by the first Amariah Hall, and first used as a tavern, and was a popular gathering place during the Revolutionary War. After the war, it was used as a meeting place for town officials.



The Sanford Residence (Sportman) built in 1761

It was purchased by Squire Dean, who turned it over to the Congregational Society for use as its parsonage from 1812-1847. Rev. Enoch Sanford, one of the chroniclers of Raynham's history, was one who resided there.

Since then there have been fifteen owners and many famous residents including: an Ambassador to France; Elihu Washburn, a United States Secretary of State; Judge Sanford, a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah; and Hempstead Washburn, who became a mayor of Chicago, Illinois. The house, which is two stories high, has a large chimney in the center. It is nearly square, and it is two rooms wide on the front. Rev. Mr. Hull is credited with building the portico, and Rev. Sanford, who lived there for twenty years, built the original front fence.

The lovely home at 691 South Main Street, which is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Paull Cushman, was built in the early 19th century.



Early Nineteenth Century home on South Main Street now owned by the Cushmans

The Larzelere home, at 748 South Main Street, was in existence on the site in the 1850's. The early records of this house were destroyed in a fire, but files indicate that Otis and Sarah King lived there in 1868 and that ownership has changed about six times since then. Walter Harlow, the town clerk and tax collector, supposedly lived there in 1886, and a wooden box lid with the words 'Town of Raynham' on it was found in the garage. Residents believe that it was probably the lid of a ballot box.



The Otis King House (Larzelere) built in the 1850's

Barbara O'Brien's home, at 390 White Street, was built in the late 1700's with a new section added in 1850. It was referred to as the Andrews house on early maps.

Carmi Andrews and Francis Andrews divided ownership officially. Francis received the part of the building built in 1850 plus use of one-third part of the cellar under the older part of the house, with passway to same and joint privilege of the well. (May 6, 1851)

Records indicate that this was a large homestead because a transfer deed in 1913, from Corydon Andrews to Nellie Rogers, refers to 69 1/2 acres more or less. John Rogers, who inherited the house from Nellie Rogers and lived there until 1948, ran a chicken farm on the property. He was a selectman and had a reputation for being feisty. Interesting features include:

1. Bennington doorknobs
2. Christian doors
3. Original latches put in with hand-cut screws
4. 5" x 5" pegged rafters in the old house
5. 2 1/2" x 6" rafters in the new house
6. Three working fireplaces with no dampers
7. A fireplace, with a damper, which was built in 1958 with brick from the Whittenton School
8. Random width soft pine floors - all nailed with hand-cut nails.



The Andrews House (O'Brien) built in the late 1700's

The Hunt home, at 455 North Main Street, is unique as it was the home of Raynham's first newspaper. This place has been known as the "Lander's Place."

Many believe that the Hewitt House at 970 North Main Street was built in the 1730's and might be the second oldest house in Raynham. The original house was raised and an entire fifteen foot high first floor structure was inserted below the original building. The beams are notched and wooden-pegged, with special wrought iron rods running through the beams.

The front windows are full length, facing the portico. There are twenty acres with sheds and a big barn. The fireplaces have walnut fronts, and a curved walnut bannister is featured on the stairway leading to the second floor, which was the original first floor. Lillian Hewitt was the first school nurse and is known by many Raynham residents.



Circa 1730 house on North Main Street now owned by Mrs. Hewitt

The Nathan Dean House, at 191 South Street East, was purchased in 1972 by J. Michael and Deborah Edwards. The original portion of the house was built in 1724, with additions later on the north and the south sides.

In 1810 Nathan Dean added the front Federal portion, with four rooms, a hall, and a staircase. Mr. Dean designed this after a house he had seen in Washington, D.C., and he nearly went bankrupt because the detailed work took many hours of special handwork. There is handcarving in the two parlors - around the ceiling, chair-rail, and fireplace.

There was an outhouse - constructed like a Chinese pagoda - in the backyard, with 5 holes (3 large and 2 small), papered in late 1800's newspapers. This outhouse is pictured on p. 13 of Eric Sloane's book, The Vanishing Landscape.

Documents from the Library of Congress show that in the 1930's the house had 4 chimneys, 9 fireplaces, 3 staircases, and 20 rooms. There was no running water, no electricity, no heat except from fireplaces and Franklin stoves, and no indoor plumbing.



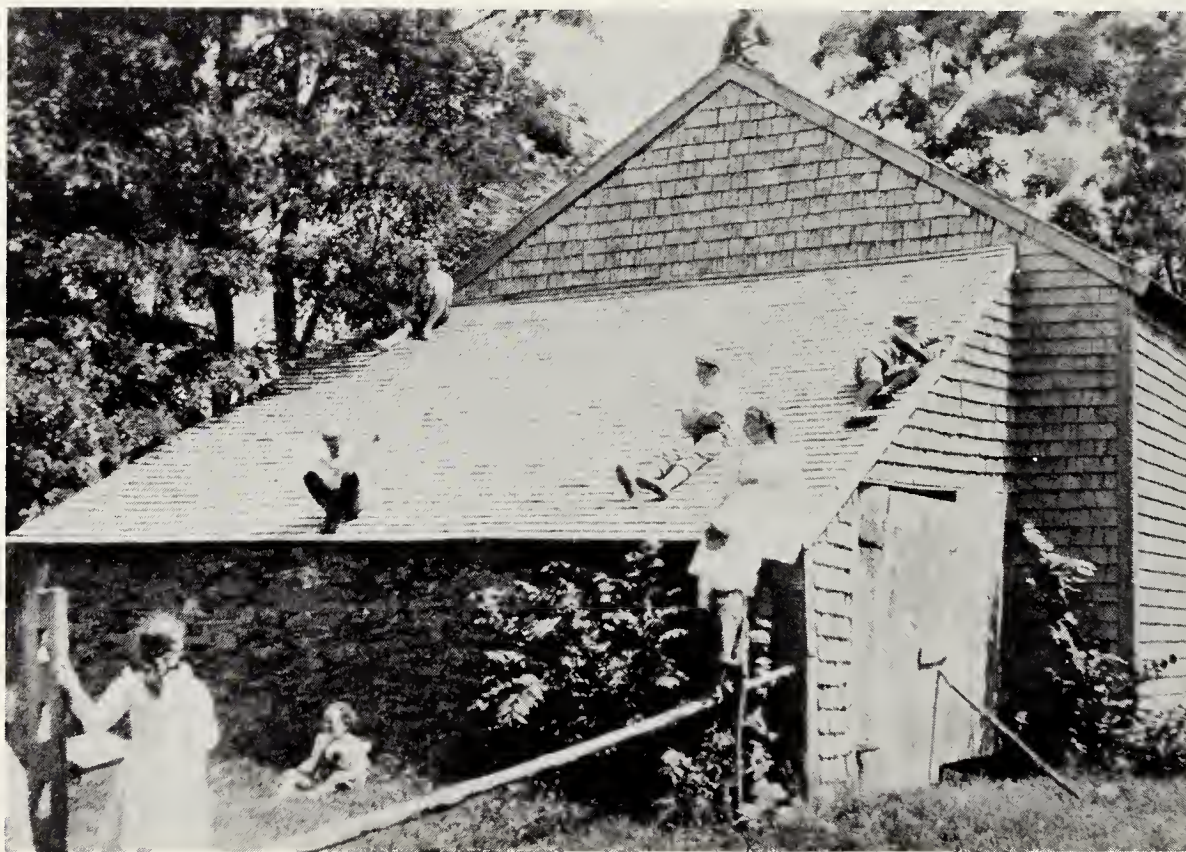
The Nathan Dean House (Edwards) circa 1724

When Lydia Hall, an owner until 1952, died, Fred Caplin bought the property. Before he sold it in 1964, 13 rooms and 2 chimneys were demolished.

The Edwards family has carefully restored and duplicated, keeping the original features.

When they were buying the house, they were told that a ghost haunted the hallway. Funny noises are heard, but the owners are sure that they are the sounds of the cracks and crannies groaning with age, as in any old house.

The house is presently called "Plum Hall" because the previous owner painted the ENTIRE hall plum, including a portion of the ceiling, the stairs, the woodwork, everything but the bannister, which was painted black.



The barn of the Joseph Shaw House (Ouellette) circa 1662-1700

Henry and Jean Ouellette's home at 1087 Locust Street, which is referred to as the Joseph Shaw Home, might have been built circa 1662-1700. Joseph Shaw, who served in the Revolutionary War, left a carving underneath a floorboard that read, "J.S. 1750, 1725 to forever." It was his bid for immortality, and the present owners still have the board. The original owner was Samuel Shaw. The "Good-morning staircase" branches out from a common landing to each bedroom on the upper floor. Mr. Ouellette has meticulously restored the beauty of the old home which has two beehive ovens, a center chimney, many original beams, and the original root cellar.

The large white home formerly on South Street, across from K-Mart, belongs to Diane and Robert W. McGuire, Jr. The center part was built in 1728 by John King, a wealthy iron manufacturer who could afford to build such a home. The house is larger and was more elaborate than many houses built at that time.



The John King House (McGuire) circa 1728

Historians surmise that John King was the owner of the iron works which was built on the Taunton River, partly in East Taunton and partly in Raynham. Rooms on the second floor of the wing appear to have been bedrooms for the hired help. Also, this house had an "indoor outhouse" - quite a luxury for early residents who did not have to brave New England weather to go outside to their bathroom.

Deeds have been thoroughly researched, and the King name is the most frequently listed. The deed attracting the most attention is the one in 1850 between Barzillai and Benjamin King (brothers) who divided the house in half, each taking specific rooms and stairways. The south wing was probably added at that time.

The house has five doors to the outside and three stairways to the upstairs. Two beehive ovens, HL latches, six fireplaces, windows with some original panes, random width floor boards with original paint (some with spattered design) and studded with hand-hewn nails, a tiny unexplainable door in an outside wall on the second floor, a huge walk-in pantry, and beams that were pegged, all lend authentic charm to this very old house.

The McGuires moved their home from its site on the Taunton River on South Street to Judson Street in 1990.

Among the features in the home on the corner of Orchard Street and King Street, which is owned by Barbara (Leonard) Sleezer, is an open area in the wall in a small hall off the kitchen, next to the chimney. There is a large iron pot where clothes were washed in early days, and there is an opening in the brick which allowed the steam to escape.

Mrs. Sleezer, who served many years as executive secretary to the Board of Selectmen, and was a member of the Raynham School Committee, and a member of the Town Government Study Committee, has a strong commitment to the history of Raynham. Her ancestors kept excellent records and saved legal documents, newspaper articles, and receipts of their family's transactions. They kept receipts for such things as repairing wagons, shoeing horses, and selling land. Mrs. Sleezer now has those records, and they provide valuable insight into life in early Raynham.

One of the receipts, from a doctor in 1854, showed a bill for:

| | |
|--|------------|
| "two visits, two calls, and medicine ... | \$.70 |
| medicine, three times | ... \$.15 |
| total | ...\$.85 |

Another receipt of a doctor's bill was for:

"twelve pills - ten cents." That was in 1860.

A receipt from a lumber company shows a purchase of:

"1100 feet of spruce boards, at \$.02 a foot (\$22.00)

50 feet of pine boards, at \$.033 a foot (\$1.65)"

Records of deaths, carefully hand written, include entries for Perez Fobes and Toby Gilmore, both in 1812.



The Leonard House (Sleezer) built in the 1850's

The old saltbox home on the corner of Judson and Warren Streets, now occupied by Christopher S. and Margaret E. Jones, was built about 1786 by Milo Williams. Many acres of woodlands and farmlands surrounded the house. Judson street was known as Middleborough Road and was the main road between Taunton and Middleboro. Coaches would stop at this farmhouse, if necessary. The home was sold several times, with each owner making changes.

The granite doorstep came from the house of Robert Treat Paine, a signer of the Declaration of Independence from Taunton, when his Taunton home was torn down. Reportedly a hidden tunnel ran from the basement of the house, under Judson Street, to a crypt-like room on the other side. This was used in the Underground Railroad. A closet under the front stairs was used to hide children from the Indians. The closet on the front stairway had an opening into the center chimney, and it was used as a smoke room. The house has the traditional fireplaces, beehive ovens, wide board floor, horse hair plaster, and old panes of glass. The cricket which is often heard in the house and the chimney swifts nesting in the chimney are considered good omens.

The home has been beautifully restored and maintained.



The Milo Williams House (Jones) circa 1786

Pinehill Estates, a mobile home park on Hill Street which opened its first unit in 1973, is still expanding. George Bumila, Sr., who was appointed by the Governor to the State Mobile Home Commission and is on the Legislative Committee for the Mobile Home Industry, said there are 246 units there in 1988, an increase from 86 units in 1973. Residents in the park must be fifty-five years old, or older. There is a mobile home park in North Raynham, too, bringing to 284 the number of mobile homes in Raynham.

Housing for the elderly, in Pinewood Terrace on twenty-eight acres on Mill Street, was dedicated in 1980. HUD regulations require that unit occupants must be at least 62 years old. Rental fees differ because they are derived on the basis of one-half of the resident's income.

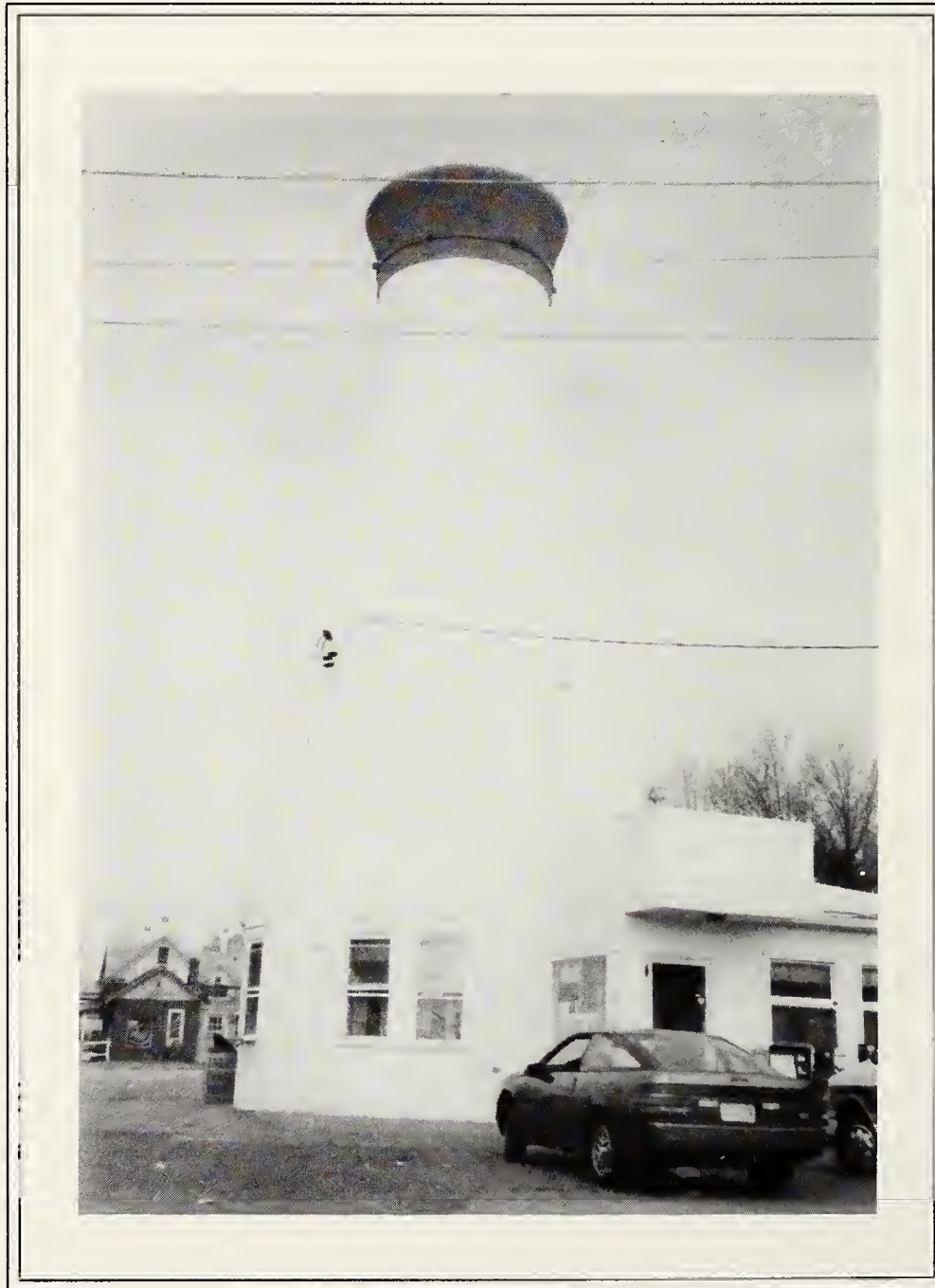
In 1978, Raymond Milliken said that in 1973 there were only about 300 senior citizens but that currently there were 1,009 seniors. (29) Housing for the elderly was a definite need in Raynham. The units are made of rough-hewn wood to blend with the wooded setting. It's within walking distance of a market, post office, drug store, cleaners, and church.



Pinewood Terrace dedicated in 1980

Undoubtedly the building with the most unique architecture is the Bottle Restaurant on Route 138. It has a huge milk bottle replica as the front of a restaurant. The bottle is an Art Deco period tribute to what is now referred to as "Coney Island architecture." (32)

The bottle is about 50 feet high and 20 feet in diameter and is painted to represent milk, with cream at the top, and the cover of the bottle.



The Milk Bottle, a famous North Raynham landmark

A small white building on Route 138, near the site of the outdoor theater, has a sign on the front, indicating that it was a toll house on that route, in 1783.

A June, 1988, Brockton Enterprise article referred to the newest type of home construction in the area - condominiums. In one of the newer condominium developments, of the first 30 buyers, 7 were ages 20-29; 7 were ages 30-39; 16 were over 50 years old. The development had only one-bedroom units, and the prices started at \$89,000 and went as high as \$93,000.

Housing: 1988

Residential tax rate per \$1,000: \$15.60

Last year property was revalued: 1988, for fiscal 1989

Average selling price of single-family home (assessors' estimate):
\$146,000

Number of single-family homes: 2,442

Number of two-family homes: 60

Number of three-family homes: 21

Number of condominiums: 174

Number of apartment units: 185

Number of public elderly units: 62



**Weonit Hall at Johnson's Pond (American Legion Memorial Hall)
damaged by fire and then razed in 1959**



The First Toby Gilmore House on Broadway circa 1784



The Second Toby Gilmore House in North Raynham, burned in 1918



Old Cassander Gilmore House, Raynham Center, no longer standing



The Rev. Simeon Doggett House, no longer standing

XIV. Cemeteries

There are twenty-two cemeteries in Raynham. The large one on Pleasant Street is town-owned, and there are numerous smaller cemeteries all over town. Private family-owned cemeteries are located near many homes.

If one enters gate one at the Pleasant Street Cemetery, he'll find monuments with names of the early well-known residents.

Toby Gilmore's gravestone is in the North Raynham cemetery.

Records seem to indicate that the oldest monument is in the Shaw Burying Ground, which is the little cemetery on a hill of grass on South Street in back of Shaw's Market. The stone is crudely hand-chiseled to say that Sylvanus Campbell had died at age 51 in 1718. It begins, "Hear lys..."



The Sylvanus Campbell monument from 1718

XV. MEMORIES

RIDING ON TROLLEYS, GETTING WATER FROM A WELL,
SOME SENIOR CITIZENS HAVE GREAT STORIES TO TELL!

Newspaper articles, material written by Sanford and Fobes, and interviews with local citizens all help us to visualize life in earlier Raynham.

The list of names of men who had received college degrees by 1861 includes a few familiar first names, but most of them are unfamiliar to us today. They include

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Zephaniah | Joshua | John | Jahaziah |
| Mason | Lloyd | George | Abraham |
| Samuel | Jonathan | Philo | Melvin |
| Silas | Eliab | Abiel | William |
| Christopher | Linus | Edward | Enoch |
| Elliot | Amos | Elijah | |

A 1964 newspaper article described the Route 44 section of Raynham. The author mentioned a modern motel, Berk's Shopping Center, Benny's Auto Store, Capeway Bowl, Fernandes Market and a bank. He said that the Jordan Marsh Shopping Center would be underway within the next three years, and continued, "Add to that numerous soft drink establishments, restaurants, and garden product sales stands, which make Raynham almost a comfortable place in which to live." In 1964 there were 4,200 people and 1,504 homes. This was a dramatic increase since 1864 when there were 1,000 people and 342 homes.

Raynham's 250th birthday sparked childhood memories for Ralph Moye, who wrote an article about life in 1931, fifty years before the 1981 anniversary.

Students went to Taunton High School.

All water was from wells.

Chicken and stock drank first during a drought.

Milk came from a cow not from a store.

Hot water came from a tank on the back of the stove.

Each member of the family had a brick, encased in flannel, which stayed in the oven (except when cooking) during the day. "What joy to rush from the stove to one's bed with a warm Stiles and Hart brick all one's own." (43)

Oil lamps provided light, and their globes had to be cleaned and their wicks trimmed.

There was no inside plumbing.

Route 44 didn't exist, and it was a real trip to get to the Cape.

Earlier cars had to be cranked to be started. They had side curtains, running boards, a trunk, and a tire repair kit.

Merrall Viles, known for years as "Mr. Raynham," planned for years to assemble a history of Raynham and has accurate facts and interesting memories of Raynham - the town and its people. He has memories of the trolley line and of the time when the four roads extending from the center were paved for a short distance each way. Having to push a truck up the muddy, unpaved hill of Orchard Street, heading toward East Taunton, made an outing an adventure. His memories of the fire department are detailed because his father was the first fire chief. Halloween pranks were fun in early days, too, and bring a smile to Merrall's face.

Merrall Viles moved to Raynham in 1913 when he was three years old. His father was appointed as the first Fire Chief in 1925. Until the fire station was built in 1928, the Chief kept the fire trucks in a shed near his house. Those were the last trucks with chemical tanks (no water).

During the years when Merrall Viles was attending Center School, vandals filled the school chimney with cord wood which had been cut to length for the wood stove, and when the fire was started in the school stove the next morning, a fire started in the chimney, and the school burned down. The children had to attend classes at the Town Hall. The present school was built at the same site as the original school.

When asked about interesting people in early Raynham, Merrall mentioned Almon K. White, the first police chief, saying that Chief White



**Walton W. Viles,
Raynham's First Fire Chief**

was very fair and very strong. He said people obeyed the laws when Almon White was Chief!

He said that one of the most interesting characters in early Raynham was Fred Hall, who was well known at early town meetings.

Merrall remembers turning two-foot long billy clubs from hickory, on his lathe, for the early auxiliary police.

Merrall's family proudly remembers the election which was held at Shaw's Market on the Saturday before Raynham's 250th Anniversary celebration, when the townspeople chose him as King and Isabelle Hannant as Queen of the festivities.

Mrs. Florence Viles, Merrall's wife, has always been interested in the Raynham Schools. She was President of the P.T.O. at one time. Florence remembers Miss J. B. Goodick, the teaching principal of the South School for many years, as a legend, and said that Miss

Goodick would be a good role model for teachers of today. She also said that Mrs. Doris Connors was a "gem of a teacher."

It's Raynham's loss that Mr. Viles never wrote a book about the history of Raynham.

XVI. Celebrations

Raynham, which was established in 1731, has enjoyed three major anniversary celebrations - in 1931, 1976, and 1981.

In 1931, Mr. Hutt, of the Old Colony Historical Society, wrote a poem, "The Iron Men," for Raynham's Bicentenary observance. The poem had six stanzas. This is the first stanza.

The Iron Men

Now here's health to your Iron Men
Big-hearted fellows of long ago;
Big-fisted fellows, who feared no foe -
Each man of them having the strength of ten.
I sing of Giants of vast renown,
Your stout old Vulcans of Raynham Town. (12)

The 200th anniversary booklet in 1931 featured a cover with the iron works, the town seal, and an anchor. According to the booklet, entertainment was provided by students and adults, including teachers and school committee members. Episodes included skits on inviting the Leonards to establish the iron industry - as adults took parts of a moderator and members of a town meeting. School children performed singing games and folk dances.

Most activities were in June for good weather at Weonit Hall on Johnson's Pond. Arthur Corbishley won a road race in his age category. Ted Januse won a foot race and a bicycle race. There were canoe races and canoe tilting races on Johnson's Pond. There was a big parade, a band concert, and a display of Indian relics and antiques. A farrier and a spinner demonstrated their skills. A catered dinner was served in a tent nearby.

The most unique Raynham performance was a pageant on the island in Johnson's Pond. Part of the island had been set aside for the performance. The stage was a raft attached by ropes to trees on the island. The participants were ferried to the raft by boats manipulated by a system

of ropes and pulleys. The fireworks display after the pageant was effective with the reflections on the water of the pond. (40)

There was a public Raynham church service at the North Raynham Congregational Church in connection with the two-hundredth anniversary.

Residents decorated their homes, but one, especially, was noted by all. Doris Connors' home (across from the present St. Ann's Church) was decorated with flags across the entire front of the house and garage. In addition, a flag was flying from an upstairs window.

A Taunton Daily Gazette article in 1981 described school life in 1931, at our bicentenary: Center School was overcrowded, and fifth and sixth grades met in the Town Hall. If a teacher married, she could no longer be hired as a full-time teacher. However, she could do substitute teaching. At Judson School there were separate entrances for boys and girls. If you were neat, you were allowed to use an ink well. Children walked to school or went by horse and wagon. Children brought their lunches in lunch pails. Children going to Center School had to walk if their homes were between Williams' Garage (now Mastria Motors) and school. If they lived farther, they rode the trolley.

PENPALS

Raynham, Massachusetts, U.S.A., and Rainham, Essex, England began correspondence on June 5, 1974, when Mr. L. F. Thompson, headmaster of the Whybridge Junior High School in the London Borough of Havering, wrote a letter addressed to "The Mayor, Raynham, Massachusetts, U.S.A." Marjorie Largey, Secretary of the Raynham Bicentennial Committee, received the letter. Mr. Thompson wrote, "We are holding a fund-raising activity and wonder whether you could give us some help in our project. It may be that your town has a badge or pennant which might be used as a prize for competition. If so, we would be willing to pay or offer you something in return." The Raynham Bicentennial committee sent a Paul Revere bowl to Rainham in response to the letter. In addition, Patrice White, an English teacher at the Raynham Junior High, had her students write letters to penpals in Rainham. Mr. Thompson sent a coat of arms of Havering to be presented to the principal, Chester J. Millett, Jr.

BICENTENNIAL - 1976

Raynham received word in August, 1974 that it would receive the designation as a national Bicentennial Community. (19)

In order to be considered for the award, the Raynham Bicentennial Commission had to submit a description of proposed activities and historical sites to the Bicentennial Administration.

Only 1,297 communities received the honor, and Raynham was one of those. According to local commission members, the Toby Gilmore homesite was a major factor in the selection.

The local committee, formed to help Raynham commemorate America's birth which was two hundred years earlier, set specific goals: to honor the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the future. (6) They chose May for most of the activities because school would still be in session and our celebrations wouldn't conflict with state and nationwide celebrations.

All small school principals, and Mr. Bruno, the L. B. Merrill School principal, were contacted by Chester J. Millett, the junior high principal, to plan activities for the week of May 10th - May 15th.

Senior citizens were involved on May 8th, town election day, as they offered coffee, crafts, paintings, weavings, and other exhibits at the Merrill School voting area. On May 10th, the Amariah Hall Singers presented a concert at the First Congregational Church. They put us briefly in touch with the past as they offered a few tunes and "musicks" (sic) of early Raynham. (6)

At the Raynham Junior High, choral readings and folk dances were performed, and classes displayed food, art, crafts, and costumes showing the influence of Europe, Asia, and Africa on America. The L. B. Merrill and junior high choruses performed. The Bridgewater-Raynham Concert Band and choir gave performances.

The Park Department had a large field day for all ages. A chicken barbecue was prepared by the Lions Club, and a dance was held at the fire

station. The parade was held on Sunday. It formed in back of Mammoth Mart (now Shaw's), went onto South Street and onto South Main Street, proceeding by the site of the first iron works, where there was a reviewing stand. Raynham had received an anchor from the U.S. Navy because Raynham's Anchor Forge had turned out several anchors for the U.S. Navy. The honorary marshals were Lillie B. Merrill, Walter O'Brien and Florence O'Brien, Albert Porter, Russell Reid, Roger Hall, Barbara Sullivan, Lillian Hewitt, Olga Markowski, Helen Cameron, Kay Heywood, Ralph Moyer, Mrs. Warren Hill, Joseph Varao, Harold Ashley, Embert Hall, George Mador, Paull Cushman, Arthur Schutzmeister, Mr. and Mrs. George Powers, John Lovenbury, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Milliken, Ralph Hagan, Mrs. Rosario Cote, Arthur Walters, James Hauck and Mrs. Leon Machado.

The Taunton Minutemen marched proudly in their new uniforms which were sewn by Norma Collins of Raynham. She sewed 37 authentically duplicated colonial uniforms, based on drawings provided by the Smithsonian Institution.



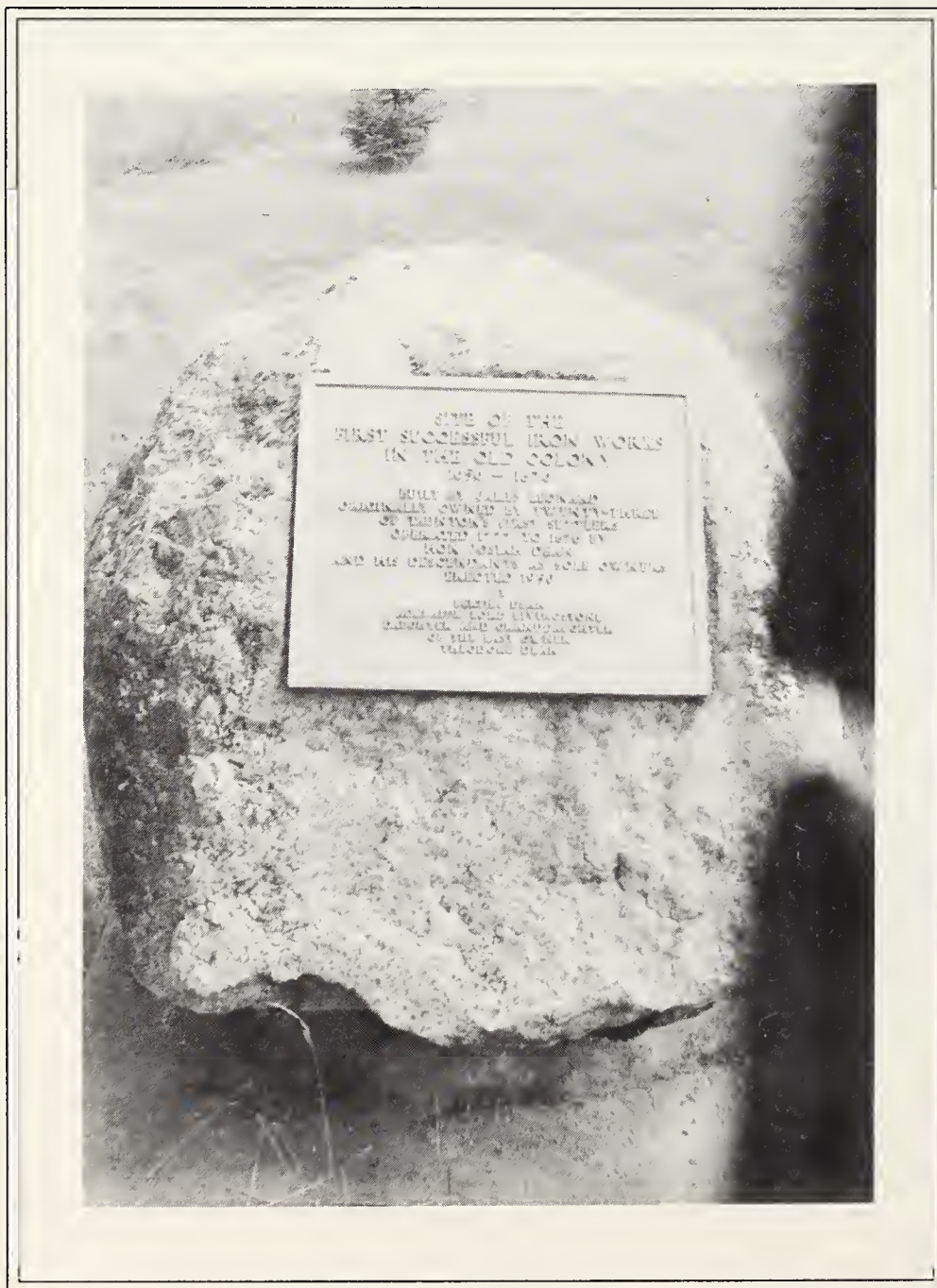
U. S Navy Anchor commemorating the site of Anchor Forge

**THERE IS AN ANCHOR IN OUR TOWN -
WHICH OUR LIONS CLUB PUT DOWN.**

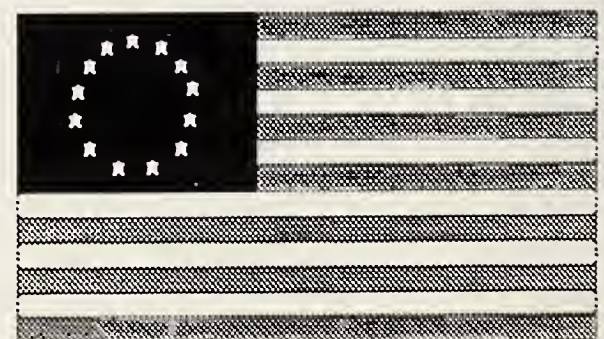
The original idea of obtaining an anchor from the U.S. Navy, to serve as a memorial for the iron works, came from the first Bicentennial Chairman, Robert W. McGuire, Jr. The anchor was obtained through joint cooperation of the Raynham Lions Club under King Lion David Fisher and the U.S. Navy. The anchor was accepted by Selectmen chairman Donald McKinnon, and the responsibility of caring for the anchor was accepted by Ruth Danforth of the Historical Commission. The Lions Club helped with

the transportation of the anchor to Raynham and provided the concrete platform for the anchor.

Richard Hill, the next chairman of the Bicentennial Commission, expressed thanks to the committee for such successful activities and was largely responsible for production of a 64-page souvenir booklet.



Plaque commemorating the site of the Anchor



RAYNHAM'S 250TH - 1981

1931, 1976, 1981 - WERE ALL YEARS TO CELEBRATE.
OUR 250TH BIRTHDAY WAS OUR MOST RECENT IMPORTANT DATE.

Raynham held a month long "Happy Birthday Raynham" gala. Maxine Englund, the committee chairman, with help from the Raynham Lions Club, organized a huge parade which lasted two and one half hours. Miss Gertrude Leonard was the honorary parade marshal, as the oldest town native.

Raynham citizens of all ages participated in the activities. Merrall Viles spoke at a school on the history of Raynham. Kathy O'Connor of Raynham won first place in the female junior division of the road race. Other Raynham race winners, in their categories, were Janet Baron, David Rubin and John Pasqueriello. Cherie Burer won top prize in the poster contest.

At the 250th Pageant, sixteen year old Tina Volpe was crowned "Miss Raynham 250th." Pat Riley was M.C., and Eric Perry entertained. The highlight of the evening was the crowning of the Senior Citizen King and Queen. Isabelle Hannant was crowned Queen. Mrs. Hannant owns and operates Hannant Florist Shop, which has been in the family for over fifty years. She is the widow of Lester Hannant, her husband of thirty-eight years.

Merrall Viles was crowned Senior Citizen King. Mr. Viles is known as the "town historian" and probably knows more about the town than any other resident. He was a Captain in the Fire Department and is now retired.

"WE THE PEOPLE" - 1988

The Raynham Historical Society sponsored a photography contest in commemoration of the signing of the Constitution. Kathleen Roberts and Judith Niles were co-chairmen. Winners were Kathy Carpenter, Heather Pollard, and Tracy Santos.

RAYNHAMITES WORK HARD, HELP EACH OTHER, AND PLAY;
"RAYNHAM'S A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE AND LEARN," THEY SAY.

XVII. VETERANS

Raynham residents have always done their share during war time. One legend which captures the imagination is that during Revolutionary War times, a Sgt. George King of the colonial militia rode through Raynham with fife and drum, calling out, "Rally! The British are shooting our Massachusetts men! Rally, and drive them out of the country!" Minutemen in Raynham, with three days' provisions packed, were in readiness at call.

Monuments to memorialize our servicemen are at Johnson's Pond and in front of the library. Several places in our town are named for servicemen who lost their lives. The local American Legion Post is named for Lt. Chester A. Bearse. Two bridges are named for James McGarry and Augustus C. Oliver, Jr., and the park at Johnson's Pond is called Bruce E. Johnston, III Memorial Park.

In front of the library the two stones with plaques memorialize Raynham residents who served in World War I and in World War II. The monuments were erected by the town of Raynham in 1928 and in 1950. The statue of a serviceman in uniform in front of the library, is, "In memory of soldiers of 1861 - 1865." It was erected by Miss Amy Leonard and friends.



Raynham Memorial Library

The monument at Johnston Park - for the veterans of the wars in Korea and Vietnam - was erected in 1970 by the trustees of soldiers' memorials. The plaque has a quote from Emerson:

So nigh is grandeur to our dust
So near to God is man
When duty whispers low, "Thou must."
The youth replies, "I can."

ORGANIZATIONS

The Lions Club, founded in 1946, is the oldest service organization in town. The Lioness Club was formed in 1984. "To be a Lion is to be concerned, involved, and working together with some good fellows for some worthy causes." (6:p.17)

The American Legion Post, chartered in 1947, and its Auxiliary, are involved in the same types of activities as the Lions Club, working with schools, children, Little League, and important causes in town.

The Raynham Historical Society was organized in 1972 to preserve data and artifacts.

The Raynham Jaycees was founded in 1975 by a group of young men (18-35) interested in the welfare of Raynham, to provide leadership training and community development.

Recently a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post was established.



The New American Legion Hall, Mill Street

XVII. RENOWNED ATHLETES - THEN AND NOW

Two Raynham natives achieved their goal of playing baseball in the major leagues. Ezra Perry Lincoln, born in 1868, developed a fine pitching arm while working as a blacksmith. In 1890, he pitched for Cleveland in the National League and for Syracuse in the American Association.



Timothy Cornelius Donahue, born in Raynham in 1870, was a catcher for the Boston American Association and then for Chicago in the National League for six seasons.

Deborah Michaud has brought fame to Raynham as she has won horseshoe pitching contests. In 1988 she competed in the World Horseshoe Pitching Championships in California.

Tara Taylor's figure skating successes in the 1980's created excitement as she brought home titles and trophies to share with her parents, Tim and Shirley, with her Jackson Drive neighbors, and with the entire community.

Dorothy Morkis, of North Raynham, rode in the Montreal Summer Olympics, as part of the U.S. Olympic Dressage Team, in 1976. Prior to that, she had won a gold medal and a bronze medal in the Pan-American Competition in Mexico.

Gil Santos, a Raynham resident since 1971, is WBZ's "Voice of Sports." His work history and awards include: Broadcast Patriots' games through 1979; Boston Celtics play-by-play; play-by-play for the USFL in 1984 and ABC radio for 1984 Olympics; Massachusetts Sportscaster of the Year award in 1980, 1983, 1984; UPI National award for Outstanding Sports Report in 1986; 15 UPI and AP awards for Best New England Play-by-Play and Sports Reporting - 1977-1988; eight awards for best Boston Marathon coverage 1979-1987; New England Emmys for best TV play-by-play in 1980, 1981, 1983, 1985; Boston magazine selection as "Best Play-by-Play Announcer in Boston Radio or TV" for the past three years.

XIX. GROWTH / PROGRESS

GROWTH MEANS PROGRESS, BUT PROBLEMS, TOO.
WE HAVE TO THINK AHEAD AND PLAN WHAT TO DO.

The town's first official street names were established in 1895, and many street and other place names commemorate early Raynham families. Two long ridges of land run generally north and south. Route 138 runs along the top of one ridge. Locust Street runs along the top of the other.

Raynham is well served by a regional road system which connects the town with major cities. It is located at the crossroads of highways I-495, 24, and 25. U.S. Highway 44 passes through south Raynham. Two state highways - 138 and 104 - pass through Raynham. "The road system for the most part follows the ridges of higher land which pass through the town, and, therefore, follow curvilinear patterns; there is no regimented system of roads, for this reason." (8:p. 14)

The new Route 495 is expected to affect growth, land use, and traffic patterns. Such development in North Raynham may depend on the provision of sewerage and on improved water supply. Protection of aquifers and wetlands is a concern of the town. (7) In the digging of 495, Brown University's Public Archaeology Lab experts found American Indian artifacts they believe came from Indian villages perhaps 400-500 years before the Pilgrims arrived. (31)

About 25,000 years ago a swamp was buried under a mile or two of ice. About 12,000 years ago geologists called it Leverett Sea. The old bed of Leverett Sea gradually became the spongy, swampy woodland we know as Hockomock Swamp. One shallow pond, reduced to 368 acres, is now called Lake Nippenicket and is the only large area of open water now remaining of the Leverett Sea. Today the Hockomock Swamp, which spreads through six cities and towns, including Raynham, is the largest natural swamp in Massachusetts, and perhaps, the largest in the Northeastern United States. (52)

Underground aquifer is important because it provides drinking water for most Raynham residents. The water is drawn to the surface by

wells operated by two water districts. (8:p.39)

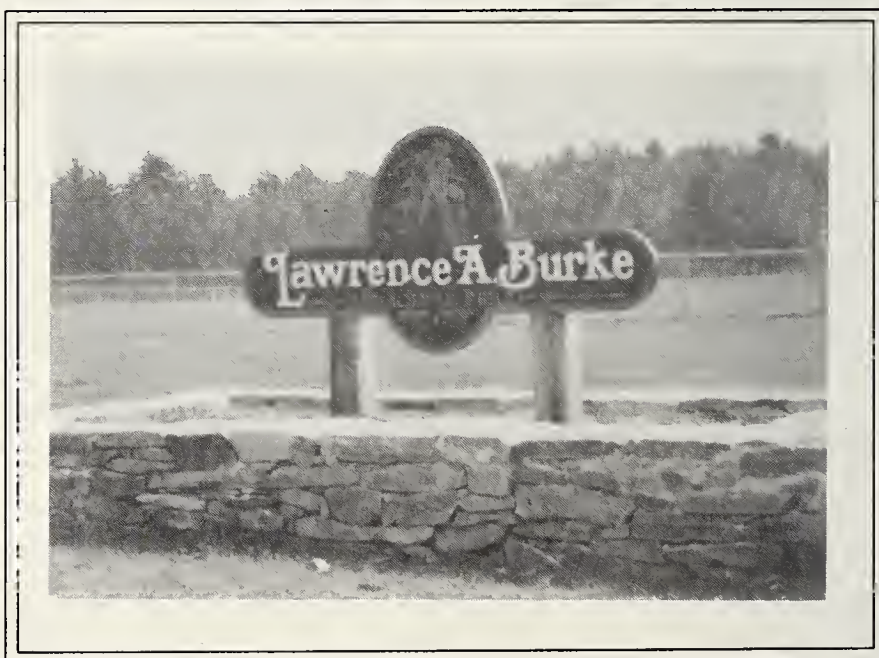
Raynham's electricity is provided by the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant. Gas service is supplied in under-ground pipes by the Bay State Gas Company. (8:p.21) Continental Cablevision provides cable television.

In 1950 there were 2,126 residents. In 1960, there were 4,150, and in 1980, there were 9,085 residents. From 1960-1980, 72.5% of the population was attributed to in-migration and 27.5% to natural increase (the difference of births minus deaths). The projected population for the year 1995, determined by the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District's regional wastewater management study, in 1983, is approximately 16,000 people. (8:p.11) In 1988 there are 8,935 people.

In 1983 there were 170 acres of commercially used land and 40 acres of industrially used land. Agricultural land is about 750 acres, or 6% of the town. Raynham's area is 20.30 square miles.

Between 1977 and 1983 changes took place which will affect recreation and conservation. Raynham bought 31 acres on King Philip Street, for recreational use; bought the 35.5 acre Hewitt's Pond Preserve; bought 248 acres of agricultural land. One of the fields at the Borden Colony was dedicated, in 1988, to Kevin McKenney, a popular B-R senior, who was killed in a car accident.

For five years, in the mid-1980's, a road race, organized by the Quinn, Ricciardi, and Hanson families, as a memorial to Judith



**The Merrill School athletic field
was dedicated to Lawrence Burke.**

White Lafond, daughter of Richard and Patrice White, and sister of Richard White, Jr., attracted hundreds of participants yearly and raised thousands of scholarship dollars. Many-time marathon winner Bill Rodgers was the featured runner in the final year of the race. Judith, wife of Navy Lieutenant Daniel J. Lafond, died of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of twenty-three.

XX. TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Walton W. Viles, first fire chief, had his office in his home. The firemen, always on call, would respond quickly to every fire. Theodore Januse, a call fireman since 1936, became Fire Chief in 1949 and remained at that job for 32 years. Raymond E. Chappell, 1988 Fire Chief, has eleven full-time firefighters and twenty call firemen.

Prior to 1930, Raynham had no full-time police officers or a police department. Laws were upheld by constables appointed yearly by the Board of Selectmen. In 1930 Almon K. White was appointed the first police chief. His office was in the front room of his home on Hill Street. Russell M. Reid, chief in 1952, was the only full-time officer on the force. In 1957

the Town Building was constructed for \$135,000 on Orchard Street, and the Police Station was there. Peter King, 1988 Chief of Police, listed 14 members of his Department. (70:p.100)

The Highway Surveyor, Harry Carey, wrote in the 1988 Town Report, "The general maintenance of town roads to keep on top of the pot hole season was a full-time job this year." (70:p.103)

R. William Barber, chairman of the Park and Recreation Commission, and Gary O'Neil, director, stated in the 1988 report that the major highlight was the continued construction of the recreation complex at Borden Colony.



Almon K. White, First Police Chief

XXI. GOVERNMENT

Raynham has a town meeting format of government. The first town meeting for the choice of a board of selectmen and other town officers was on April 22, 1731. (13:p.1) The first Town Clerk was Samuel Leonard, Jr., and the first Selectmen were John Staples, Samuel Leonard, Sr., and Ebenezer Robinson.

The 1988 Town Clerk is Helen Lounsbury, and the chairman of the Board of Selectmen is Donald McKinnon. The other two Selectmen are Albert Porter and Donald Francis.

A town meeting is the legislative body of the town government, similar to the State Legislature and Congress, which are the legislative bodies in state and national governments. However, the town meeting in Raynham differs in that each person represents himself and has a right to be heard. (6:p.21) A warrant is a list of all the things to be voted on at a town meeting.

Town Government: 1988

Town Meeting - held third Monday in May

Voters in each party: Democrats: 1,440 Republicans: 966

Independents: 2,490

In Congress:

U.S. Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John F. Kerry

U.S. Representative J. Joseph Moakley

In Legislature:

State Senator John F. Parker

State Representative Jacqueline Lewis

Police Chief: Peter King

Fire Chief: Raymond Chappell

School Superintendent: Dr. Eileen Williams

Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Joseph Gilbert

School Committee: Chairman Joseph Bettencourt, Dr. Francis

Gendreau, Shoshanah Garshick, Robert Cardaci,

Mark Sanderson

Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee:

Chairman Arthur Wyman, Clifford Bettencourt,
James Dupont, George Gurley

Bristol-Plymouth Regional Vocational Technical School

Committee: Catherine Williams

Zoning Board of Appeals:

Chairman Robert Newton, Dix Shevalier,
Arthur Largey

Board of Assessors:

Chairman John Lynn, Roger Howlett,
Richard Mastria, Sr.

Building Inspector: Dennis Machado

Highway Surveyor: Harry Carey

Town Clerk: Helen Lounsbury

Town Counsel: Marc Antine

Finance Committee:

Chairman Robert Mastria, Russell Martorana,
Carl Carlson, Michael Lalli,
Dr Michael Goldstein

Board of Health: Selectmen Donald Francis, Albert Porter,
Donald McKinnon

Housing Authority:

Chairman Dolores Travaglione, Betty Thompson,
Marie Smith, Donald Bernard, Flora Hagan

Town Moderator: Joseph McCusker

Planning Board:

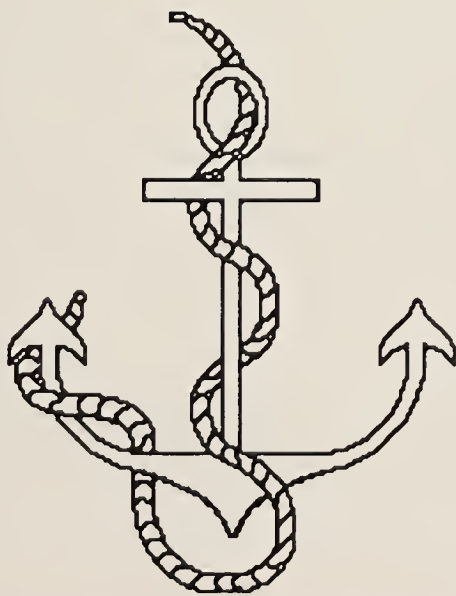
Chairman Albert Lounsbury, Edmund Brennan,
Roger Poisson, Robert Navin, Henry Ellis

Conservation Commission:

Chairman Dana Whitman, Louis Bousquet,
Donald Shearstone, Paul Weinberg, Daniel
Krajcik, Bernice Fountain, Gordon Francis

Park and Recreation Commission: R. William Barber, George
Blaney, Norman Marotte, Director: Gary O'Neil
Town Treasurer: Robert P. Smith
Tax Collector: Barbara Gallagher
Schools:
LaLiberte Junior High School: Principal Alan Jaffe
Lillie B. Merrill School: Principal William Bruno
Sullivan School: Principal Robert H. Smith
South School: Principal Dorothy Newton
North School: Principal Nancy Flynn
Raynham Public Library: Director Ellen Ranney
Sewer Commissioners: John Holmes, Frank Cabral, Matthew
Roskuska, Harry Carey
Industrial and Development Commission: Herbert Johnson, W.
LeRoy Latimer, Joseph Bettencourt, Theodore
Sargent, Robert Archer
Cemetery Commission: Barbara O'Brien, Charles Woodward,
Anna Woodward, Calvin Ellis - Supt.
Council on Aging: Bernice Fountain, Barbara O'Brien,
Raymond Milliken, Betty Thompson, Florence
Rowland, Paul Rodrique, Katheen Roberts
Historical Commission: Brady Fitts, Kathleen Roberts, Dora
Pine, Robert Harlow, Arthur Pelletier, Patricia
Auger
Arts Lottery Council: Linda Tillson, James O'Neil, Carol
Mailloux, Judith Niles, Beatriz Ferrier, Denise
Vieira, Eleanor Calvin, Dorothy Newton, Patricia
Auger, Beverly Tokarz, Barbara LaFlamme, Robert
Eastman, Pauline Sears

“As a town almost literally forged in iron, and one that has contributed greatly to the progress and history of this area, it appears that Raynham will rely on its continuing vitality to help face the



complexities that growth will inevitably bring. (I6:p.3)

XXIII. Acknowledgments

I would like to thank:

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Patricia Adams

Deborah Edwards

Mary Carol Larzelere

George Bumila, Sr.

Doris Crook

Helen Lounsbury

Marsha Silvia

Carol Wilson

Norma Collins

Margaret McGuire

Maureen Monahan

Richard A. White, Jr.

Mary Anderson

Mary Keeler

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